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CONTENTS

25 June 1991

SOURCE INDICATORS An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Palestinian Affairs

Kuwaitis Concerned Over AL-NIDA' Sentences *[Algiers VOP]* 1
Arab Forces Urged To Stop Kuwaiti 'Massacres' *[Algiers VOP]* 1
Kuwait Termed 'Bleeding Pocket' Against Arabs *[Algiers VOP]* 1
PLO's Hurani on Peace Conference, Kuwait *[London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI 15-16 Jun]* 2
PNNF Meets 19 Jun, Calls for 'Total Unity' *[Al-Quds Radio]* 4

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

Youths Dispersed in Overnight Clashes *[Algiers Radio]* 5
Military Orders FIS To Restore State Symbols *[Tunis Radio]* 5

Egypt

AL-AHRAM Writer Urges Review of U.S. Ties *[AL-AHRAM 19 Jun]* 5
Foreign Minister Interviewed on Mideast, Iraq *[AL-AHALI 19 Jun]* 6
Paper Decries Lack of U.S. Response to Shamir *[MENA]* 9
Editorial Says Israeli 'Delusion' on Settlements *[MENA]* 9
Returnees From Qatar Say Contracts Terminated *[AL-JUMHURIYAH 16 Jun]* 9
*Customs Threaten Strike Against Public Sector Bill *[AL-SHA'B 11 Jun]* 10

Morocco

'National Popular Movement' Party Established *[MAP]* 10

Sudan

Country To Develop Ties With Ethiopia, Eritrea *[Omdurman Radio]* 10
Ethiopia Reportedly Asks Rebels To Leave *[Omdurman Radio]* 10
SRF Rebels Reportedly Surrender in Sobat *[Omdurman Radio]* 10
Four Rebel Camps Destroyed in South Kurdufan *[SUNA]* 11

Tunisia

Ba'th Party, PUP Criticize Economic Embargo *[Baghdad Radio]* 11

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Kuwait

Government To Lift Martial Law *[KUNA]* 12
Central Bank Governor Denies Dinar Devaluation *[KUNA]* 12
PLO Said Planning Return to Terrorism *[SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI]* 12

Saudi Arabia

Iran's Velayati Ends Pilgrimage, Departs *[SPA]* 13

AL-HAWADITH Interviews King Fahd *[SPA]* 13
Charge d'Affaires Denies IRNA Hajj Report *[SPA]* 14

IRAQ

Kurdish Rebels Meet To Discuss Autonomy Accord *[AFP]* 15
Barzani Comments on Agreement With Baghdad *[Mainz TV]* 15
Kurdish Front To Meet 'Later Monday or Tuesday' *[AFP]* 15
Senior Ba'th Officials Reportedly Executed *[IRNA]* 16
Anti-Saddam Forces Continue Operations *[Voice of Rebellious Iraq]* 16
Saddam Reportedly Plans To Poison Marshes *[Voice of Iraqi Opposition]* 16
Explosion, Arrests Reported in South *[Tehran Radio]* 16
Envoy on Efforts To Release Assets in Japan *[Amman Radio]* 16
'Unholy Alliance' Between U.S., Iran Exposed *[INA]* 17
U.S. Air Activity Over North Protested *[Baghdad Radio]* 17

ISRAEL

Bush Letter to Shamir on Peace Process Published *[MA'ARIV 10 Jun]* 18
Shamir—West Bank, Gaza Inseparable From Israel *[AL HAMISHMAR 25 Jun]* 19
Shamir Questions U.S. Policy Toward Syria *[Jerusalem Radio]* 19
Sharon Calls Settlements 'Barrier Against War' *[Jerusalem Radio]* 19
Analyst—IDF Units Revealed To End Their Use *[AL HAMISHMAR 24 Jun]* 19
Baraq Defends Disclosure of Special Army Units *[Jerusalem Radio]* 20
More Special IDF Units To Work in Territories *[Jerusalem Radio]* 21
Zulu King Goodwill Zwelithini Arrives for Visit *[Johannesburg TV]* 21
Urges Support for De Klerk *[THE JERUSALEM POST 24 Jun]* 21
Afrikaans Paper Reports Lifting of Sanctions *[Umtata Radio]* 21
Sanctions on South Africa Not To Be Lifted *[Jerusalem TV]* 21
New Palestinian Party Issues Leaflet *[IDF Radio]* 21
Member of New Party Interviewed *[Jerusalem TV]* 22
Aims of New Party Analyzed *[AL-FAJR 20 Jun]* 22
Knowledge of Planned Prisoner Swap Denied *[Jerusalem Radio]* 23
Pazner Denies Nuclear Devices on Golan Heights *[Jerusalem Radio]* 23
Syria Criticized for Carrying Extremism 'Too Far' *[Jerusalem Radio]* 23

LEBANON

'Unidentified' Forces Attack UNIFIL Position *[Beirut Radio]* 24
Pro-Israeli Group in South Wants UN Out *[AFP]* 24
PLO Asks Factions in Sidon To Hold Positions *[VOL]* 24
Minister Dallul Views Palestinian Contacts *[VOL]* 24
Mediator Expects No 'Showdown' With Palestinians *[Beirut Radio]* 24
'Rehabilitation' of Militiamen Reported *[AFP]* 24
Buwayz Returns From Kuwait, Comments *[RFL]* 25
Buwayz on Need To Implement Resolution 425 *[WAKH]* 25
Buwayz on Riyadh Talks, Army Deployment, Syria *[London AL-HAWADITH 21 Jun]* 25
Syrian Forces Evacuate Shikka Tunnel *[VOL]* 26
Dallul Briefs Syrian Officials on Contacts *[VOL]* 26
Defense Minister Returns From Damascus *[RFL]* 27
Ninth Brigade Reportedly Rejects Commander *[VOM]* 27
'Prominent' Leader Says No Progress on Hostages *[VOL]* 27
Hizballah's Husayn Musawi on U.S., Israel *[Stockholm DAGENS NYHETER 14 Jun]* 27
Phalangist Party's Sa'adah on Al-Ta'if *[London AL-MAJALLAH 19-25 Jun]* 28
Nasirite Leader on Army Deployment, Weapons *[VOL]* 29
Al-Hirawi Receives Cable From King Husayn *[VOM]* 29

SYRIA

Israeli Reaction to Army Deployment Viewed *[Damascus Radio]* 30
Paper on Israeli 'Secret Units' in West Bank *[Damascus Radio]* 30

U.S. Peace Initiative 'Racing Against Time' *[Damascus Radio]* 31

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

First Deputy Premier Removed From Office *[Kabul Radio]* 32
Resistance Leaders Fail To Agree on Settlement *[THE MUSLIM]* 32
Fighting Reported Between Mujahidin, Kabul Forces *[Islamabad Radio]* 32
Mujahidin Forces Recapture Khvajeh Ghar Town *[Islamabad International]* 32

India

Minister on New Government's Economic Goals *[AFP]* 32
Spokesman on U.S. Amendment to Military Program *[Delhi Radio]* 33
UK's Major Assures Rao of 'Continuing Support' *[Delhi Radio]* 34
Naik Replaces Pawar as Maharashtra Chief Minister *[Delhi Radio]* 34
Gandhi Case Detainee May Be LTTE Chief *[AFP]* 34
12 Persons Injured in Delhi Airport Bombing *[Delhi Radio]* 34

Iran

Velayati, Hogg Discuss Hostages, Iraq in London *[Tehran Radio]* 35
Mohtashami Comments on Hostages' Release *[JAHAN-E ESLAM 16 Jun]* 35
Commentary Discusses Release of Western Hostages *[ABRAR 12 Jun]* 35
Tehran Establishes Anti-Mob Enforcement Unit *[Tehran Radio]* 36
Vice President Habibi Holds News Conference *[Tehran Radio]* 36
UN Official Arrives in Tehran *[Tehran Radio]* 38
Housing Minister Departs for Greece *[IRNA]* 38
Nezhad-Hoseynian Confers With French Officials *[Tehran Radio]* 38
Yazdi Condemns India's Decision on 'Id Rites *[Tehran Radio]* 39
Cleric Calls for Support of Government *[RESALAT 16 Jun]* 39
Daily Evaluates Middle East Arms Control Plan *[ABRAR 2 Jun]* 39
Paper Calls on Iraq To Open Borders *[TEHRAN TIMES 15 Jun]* 40
Iran Increases Trade With UAE *[AFP]* 40
Clandestine Reports Clash in Baneh *[Voice of Kordestan]* 41

Sri Lanka

Premadasa Delivers 'Fighting Speech' 42
Government To Solve Own Problems *[LANKAPUVATH]* 42
More on Premadasa's Speech *[Colombo International]* 42

Palestinian Affairs

Kuwaitis Criticized Over AL-NIDA' Sentences

LD2306100691 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 18 Jun 91

[Excerpts] Brothers: Where were the members of the court martial which sentenced seven people, four of whom are Palestinians, to be hanged on charges of having worked for the Iraqi newspaper AL-NIDA', published in Kuwait during the occupation? Where were they from 2 August up until the liberation of Kuwait by the coalition forces? Did they stay and hold their ground or did they flee, just like the entire Kuwaiti military establishment and administration from the top of the pyramid right down to the base, as everyone near and far knows?

This is an important and necessary question. Under its light, we can see who should be charged, and who should be tried, brought to justice and punished, in a just and responsible manner, because he neglected the homeland's trust, preservation of its integrity, and defense of the sanctity of its territory. In fact, while he was saving his skin, he did not for one instant think of the Kuwaitis who barricaded themselves inside their houses and preferred death to desertion of the land, home, and homeland.

According to this criterion, we may not defend the Palestinians or non-Palestinians who worked for the anti-Kuwaiti press, nor will we request that the noose around their necks be removed—because before they are tried, all those who fled, including members of the Kuwaiti court martial, should be tried. They should also be charged and, should the same law apply, receive a minimum sentence of execution by hanging, whipping, stoning, and severe beating. Further, they should have their heads chopped off and be shot dead so that they can serve as a lesson for those who care to learn and those who do not. [passage omitted]

But since that did not happen, and since the people of law and order were not put on trial for being the prime criminals, all the rulings of the court martial are nothing but nonsense, injustice, and contravention of all legislations, laws, and human rights as well. Someone accused of big crimes cannot be be allowed to be tried for petty crimes. This is number one. Number two, which is more grave, is that a sentence in all laws, practices, and legislations, since the time of Hammurabi up until now, should be in proportion to the offense, act of recalcitrance, or crime.

That these journalists held beliefs that were not in line with official Kuwaiti opinion does not in any sense constitute a crime punishable by hanging. Otherwise we would hold the door wide open for anyone wanting to kill someone with a different opinion; we would permit those who fled Kuwait helter skelter to hunt down anyone who disagrees with them, criticizes or denounces them in world capitals, to fight entire peoples and to take revenge on public opinion from the Gulf to the Ocean. According to this opinion the resolution of the crisis was not to be achieved by the repressive U.S. machinery but through the Arab solution, through reason, through judging matters from a national and nationalist perspective, not from that other perspective which has led to all this destruction due to shortsightedness and hollow arrogance. [passage omitted]

From this point of view, the matter becomes crystal-clear. The issue here is not restricted to a Kuwaiti measure, but goes beyond that. It is part of an American plan and of an Israeli program of action aimed at suppressing the intifadah and at expatriating the Palestinians simultaneously from Kuwait and from Palestine. It aims at receiving Jewish immigrants to replace the Palestinians, Soviet immigrants, and Falasha immigrants whose emigration to Israel Mr. Bush boasts of having supervised. [passage omitted]

We also warn the Kuwaiti officials who have not yet learned the lesson that no one protects anyone from the anger of hot wind and that terrorism will backfire on its perpetrators no matter how they try to hide and get U.S. Navy protection. History has no pity, and people have means of reaching criminals even if they live in well-built palaces.

Arab Forces Urged To Stop Kuwaiti 'Massacres'

LD2306102191 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 20 Jun 91

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] It is perhaps useful—while following and reading daily what is broadcast by news agencies on the kinds of savage torture to which the sons of our people in Kuwait are subjected—to wonder with agony, pain, and anger about the Arab League, which has provided cover for waging the war against Iraq for its violation of the sovereignty and freedoms of Kuwait. Why has the Arab League secretary general not moved to save the lives of innocents in Kuwait?

While we wonder about the League's stance, we are also wondering with pain in our hearts about the Arab role required to put an end to the massacres the Kuwaiti regime is carrying out. We call for the necessity of the Arab forces, which participated in the liberation of the emirate, to protect the Arab communities there; and for the Arab League to send a fact-finding commission to the emirate similar to that which it decided to send to Somalia and Djibouti after the 'Id festival.

Kuwait Termed 'Hireling Pocket' Against Arabs

LD2306063691 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 20 Jun 91

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] American President George Bush says to the Kuwaiti ambassador to Washington: Listen, your excellency the ambassador, we did not enter the war for

democracy or those trials. Are you not worried by what is taking place at the moment?

I told him, the ambassador says. I understand that. The Kuwaiti ambassador to Washington adds: I was telling our friends in the Congress: If you are interested in human rights to such an extent and leave 200,000 Palestinians in Kuwait, representing a danger to our security, we would be more than happy to transport them by air to you free so that you grant them American citizenship.

The statements of the Kuwaiti ambassador are clear. He made them not over dinner but to THE WASHINGTON POST, and the explanation of the statements is clearer and clearer. The United States tells the shaykhs in Kuwait and others in the Arab Gulf: You can try, torture, and expel the Palestinians as you wish since we did not enter the war for democracy or such trials. The United States tells them and tells others: naturally, you can expel the Palestinians from Kuwait even if their number is 200,000; nobody will object since Egyptians, Syrians, Indians, and Filipinos will replace them.

The statements of the ambassador on the expulsion of this very large number of Palestinians is in the service of neither Kuwait nor the guardians of looting, but in the service of Israel and the Zionist call for the transfer operation.

The rulers' generosity and their pleasure to transport 200,000 Palestinians from Kuwait to the United States at their expense does not need to be discussed with those members of Congress who believed the story of human rights. It is an American policy which is being implemented by the traitors of the Arab nation, who have removed even the fig leaf in their alliance with the United States and its NATO and Zionist partners.

The expulsion of Palestinians from Kuwait and other places will be the prelude to the expulsion of Palestinians from their homeland. The role played by Kuwait's rulers in the service of Israel is not a thing which can be covered. They were the first to put forward the issue of abrogating the Arab boycott of Israel before the latter proposed it. They are also the ones who called for compelling Iraq to compensate 104 states, with Israel at the forefront, which suffered from the Gulf war—as Kuwait's delegate at the United Nations Abu-al-Hasan says verbatim. They are the ones who said good-bye to the Egyptian soldiers when American-British calculations were that an intensive military presence should remain in Kuwait.

They are the ones who told the Egyptians: Never, we need the Egyptian forces, when the Americans decided to reduce their presence and the presence of their British allies in Kuwait. We were saying that the situation of Kuwait now is that of the hireling pocket in southern Lebanon and that of the hireling pocket in southern Sudan. With the behavior of its backward regime, it has turned into a force which is against the Arab nation.

PLO's Hurani on Peace Conference, Kuwait

PM1906135091 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 15-16 Jun 91 p 5

[Interview with PLO Executive Committee member 'Abdallah Hurani by Fathi al-Barqawi in Tunis; date not given]

[Text] [Al-Barqawi] What position does the Palestinian issue hold within the ebb and flow of current moves? [Hurani] We are now in a very delicate position. Time is running out, and I fear that we may not have enough time to redress what can be redressed.

I am proceeding here from the messages from U.S. President George Bush to the leaders of some Arab states and Israel, especially from the point made in them that the remaining two points of disagreement over the peace conference question are the conference's continuation and UN participation.

We notice here the absence of any mention of disagreement on the subject of Palestinian representation and Palestinian participation. In fact the U.S. Administration is acting as though this matter had been agreed—which means that Washington attributed the PLO's flexibility in allowing a repetition of U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's meeting with delegations from inside the occupied territories to PLO agreement that it is the inside which will represent the Palestinians. This necessitates a reconsideration of such meetings—if there is scope for further meetings—as long as they are regarded on that basis.

I also believe that U.S. disregard for the Palestinian representation question, not regarding it as a point of disagreement, stemmed from the fact that none of the Arab states that held a dialogue with the United States over the peace conference broached, examined, or cared about Palestinian representation, which should include the inside, Jerusalem, and the outside. Hence the U.S. position, which has ignored Palestinian representation and backtracked on what Washington agreed in the first Baker initiative, since the U.S. Administration agreed to the formation of a delegation from inside, including representatives from Jerusalem and some expellees, provided that the delegation members meet with Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat before the dialogue begins. Then the delegation would emphasize that it received its instructions and directives vis-a-vis the dialogue from president 'Arafat. Here we note a U.S. backtracking—and Arab backtracking, too—with regard to concern for and analysis of the Palestinian representation. The results of the Gulf crisis have contributed to this.

The representation question must be examined with interest and caution, and it must not be regarded as an easy matter.

[Al-Barqawi] Can there be said to be some concern within the PLO leadership about the possibility of some Palestinian quarter's agreeing to hold talks with Israel outside the PLO framework?

[Hurani] I believe that it is very difficult for any Palestinian party to participate without the PLO's approval, especially since there are no guarantees or commitments that the Palestinian people's minimum aspirations would be realized. And I mean here not the question of establishing a Palestinian state but Israel's mere withdrawal from the territories that it occupies. So who inside dares to gamble on a conference from which he cannot guarantee securing such a minimum? Therefore the nonparticipation of any Palestinian party is attributable not only to patriotic reasons, but also to the fact that no party can bear the responsibility for negligence as long as there are no guarantees covered by the PLO. This also applies to the Arab parties taking part. So we can understand that these parties care about Palestinian representation, but within the U.S. concept. This raises the following question: Can a conference be convened without Palestinian participation? And would an Arab go to the conference without Palestinian participation?

[Al-Barqawi] We know that the Jerusalem question is being ignored in the discussion of the two points of disagreement, as though a tacit understanding had been reached on it. What is the Palestinian position on this?
[Hurani] Jerusalem is an absolutely essential issue not only for the PLO and the Palestinian people, but for the Arab and world public as well. No Palestinian or Arab party dares to abandon Jerusalem. This is why there is a Palestinian emphasis on this question, because of our awareness of its sensitivity at the Arab and international levels; and this, in turn, encourages us to address the Arab and international public.

[Al-Barqawi] The question of forming a Palestinian-Jordanian delegation is broached constantly, to the extent of sometimes causing confusion and a misunderstanding of the PLO position. Is there any clarification in this regard?
[Hurani] The formation of a joint delegation is not the object of any disagreement with Jordan, as some may think, nor does the PLO oppose it. But we are examining the question of forming the Palestinian part of that delegation, specifically with regard to who should form it. We believe that it should be formed by the PLO and that it should be formed from inside and outside the occupied territories and Jerusalem. This is because we understand that such a broadly based representation means unity on the Palestinian issue—unlike what Israel and the U.S. Administration want, namely, to confine it to the inhabitants of the occupied territories. It means an issue of national rights for the Palestinian people, wherever they are. This is why we believe in the unity and comprehensiveness of representation, especially since the concepts on whose basis the conference is to be convened are vague and ill-defined. So what results can be expected, as long as the Palestinian people's representation is incomplete?

The PLO also believes in the need for commitments or a memorandum of understanding, as proposed by our delegation inside, to the effect that the conference would lead to an Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories, that our people's right to self-determination exists, and that sovereignty over territory and waters would be Palestinian. This, because if the conference is convened under the conditions the United States has set and that the Arab side unfortunately has not pondered carefully, it will eventually lead to an intrinsic administration—which will not differ much from the present situation. So do they want to make the Palestinian people and the PLO accept and agree that their ultimate national aspiration is self-rule? If so, then let it be done against our will, not in accordance with our will or with our approval.

Since Jordan is more concerned with the subject than others at the Arab level, I believe that a Jordanian-Palestinian understanding should be reached and that there should be a unified understanding and position.

Once again I emphasize that the PLO has no objection to the formation of a joint delegation if the conditions I mentioned are satisfied. This still requires an understanding and deep discussion between the PLO and Jordan.

[Al-Barqawi] The Gulf states' agreement to participate was a surprise. Do you believe that such a decision will contribute to finding a solution to the Palestinian people's issue?
[Hurani] Not at all. No one will benefit from the Gulf states' position except the U.S.-Israeli scheme, which aims not to resolve the Palestinian issue completely but to resolve Israel's problem and normalize its relations with the Arab states without Israel's making any concessions on withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories, the Palestinian people's national rights, or the Jerusalem issue.

This position was offered freely by the Gulf states, and we do not know what prompted them to hastily announce that position, which weakens the Palestinian position and the Arab position in general at any conference to be convened.

[Al-Barqawi] If that is so, did the PLO not make any contacts with these states?
[Hurani] The problem has nothing to with the PLO or its constant desire and attempts to make contacts with these states. The problem has to do with these states which are refusing to make contacts with the PLO to discuss the conference issue as a whole—not their position on participation in it.

[Al-Barqawi] How does the Palestinian leadership view all these developments? Is there a reassessment, revision, and hence a decision?

[Hurani] The recent PLO Executive Committee session was devoted totally to this question. And decisions were taken in this regard.

For the Palestinian position to express not only the view of the leadership but also that of the broadest sectors of the Palestinian people, extensive and deep consultations will be conducted by various means with our kinfolk both inside and outside.

[Al-Barqawi] Will that happen by convening a meeting at a certain level?

[Hurani] There will be a Central Council meeting after consultations with the inside. Even if this requires the convening of a Palestine National Council session, the PLO will not hesitate. This, because the decision to be taken, whatever its form, will be a fateful one affecting not the present generation but future generations.

The leadership cannot shoulder this responsibility without the support of the broadest sectors of the Palestinian people, and their personalities and representatives.

[Al-Barqawi] According to the testimony of neutral Arab and international parties, the Palestinian community in Kuwait has been exposed to all kinds of persecution for almost four months. Why has the leadership remained silent for so long?

[Hurani] The PLO has continued its endeavors through Arab and international circles and political and humanitarian organizations since the crisis hit our people in Kuwait following the Gulf war.

The PLO has also issued several statements and appeals. International contacts have been made with the Kuwaiti Government by states and humanitarian establishments to stop the crimes taking place daily—crimes committed merely on the basis of people's Palestinian identity.

Despite the admission by Kuwaiti officials—first and foremost, by the heir apparent and prime minister—of what they termed excesses against the Palestinians, all this has still not stopped. It seems to me that the methods pursued by the PLO so far have not helped stop our people's suffering. So will the PLO continue to use these futile methods or should it do all it can, without limits—as long as the other side observes no limits—to stop the crimes being committed against our people?

I put the following question to the Kuwaiti people and the nationalists in Kuwait: Do they accept what is happening to the Palestinian people? Do they accept what their government is doing, namely, sowing hatred between the two peoples? Their responsibility requires them to confront their government's position and that of the organized criminal gangs.

We want them to play their required role before it is too late and before the deepening hatred turns into an explosion and a reaction whose results are difficult to predict and stop.

I put the same question to the Arab member states of the coalition and the Arab League: Does this subject not deserve the convening of a special League session at any level to discuss it, even for humanitarian and not pan-Arab reasons?

PNSF Meets 16 Jun, Calls for 'Total Unity'

JN2006140391 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 16:30 GMT 19 Jun 91

[Text] The Palestinian National Salvation Front [PNSF] held a meeting on 16 June 1991 to review political developments in the Arab and Palestinian arena and their close connection with the Arab nation's vital issues, headed by the Palestine question and the Arab-Israeli conflict. The Front discussed developments in the occupied homeland and stressed the national and pan-Arab requirements for confronting the Zionist enemy's practices against our kinfolk and people in a manner that bolsters the steadfastness, continuation, and escalation of the heroic intifadah. It urged everyone to show a sense of national and pan-Arab responsibility and to enhance the unity and common struggle of our people and our national forces to end the occupation and stress the Palestinian people's national rights.

A PNSF statement said that while the Front emphasizes the unity of national ranks in Palestine and integration between the struggle inside and outside, it underscores its initiative calling for total national unity. It also calls on all Palestinian forces, factions, and nationalists to respond positively to this initiative with the aim of achieving national Palestinian unity as a national requisite for protecting the PLO and its national role, strengthening our people's steadfastness, and escalating their heroic intifadah toward fulfillment of the Palestinian Arab people's inalienable national rights.

Algeria

Youths Dispersed in Overnight Clashes

LD2506075891 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 25 Jun 91

[Text] Our colleague Abdennur Bendhakar did not come to work this morning. He explains why in this report:

[Bendhakar] Some quarters near the Benshirah neighborhood [words indistinct] spent a night unlike previous ones. Intermittent clashes took place between the forces keeping law and order and groups of youths, residents of these neighborhoods. The reasons for these clashes remain a mystery.

At 0330 today, while we are getting ready to go to work, we followed a chapter of this drama. The mobile law and order forces were firing tear gas to disperse groups of youths. Gunfire was also heard. We do not know whether they were plastic or real bullets.

Opposing this, groups of youths closed all roads leading to the main street of Benshirah with stone and iron barricades. They also set fire to numerous rubber tires, creating a dense black smoke that covered the area.

Witnesses who followed the development of events throughout the night told us at dawn today that events began with the approach of the curfew's coming into force, when elements of the forces keeping law and order (?surprised) groups of youths erecting a stone barricade on a back street. They tried to stop and disperse them, but they kept coming back.

The matter began to develop gradually. This required reinforcement of the regular forces and the use of gas and bullets. The situation at the moment is quiet and there is little movement. Those who were fast asleep last night woke up with tears in their eyes as a result of breathing [words indistinct].

Military Orders FIS To Restore State Symbols

LD2306083791 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 23 Jun 91

[Text] APS has reported that the military authorities running the state of siege in Algeria have ordered officials in charge of municipalities under FIS [Islamic Salvation Front] control to put back the symbols of the republic that were removed from inside and outside halls in those municipality. APS added, quoting a statement by the military authorities, that the latter have asked the committees in charge of overseeing public order in the provinces to intervene and remove any symbol that might create division among citizens and lead to sedition in Algeria. It has also been decided to re-hoist the Algerian flag over the municipal halls and hang pictures of President Bendjedid in their lobbies.

Egypt

AL-AHRAM Writer Urges Review of U.S. Ties

NC2406185091 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 19 Jun 91 p7

[Article from the "Issues and Views" column by Salah al-Din Hafiz: "Our Relationship With the United States: Need for a Reexamination"]

[Text] If we believe that the "absolute" agreement we have with the United States is a never ending one, like a Catholic marriage with no option for divorce, we have made a serious mistake.

The United States is making a still greater mistake if it believes that our "alliance," built by the Gulf crisis, is eternal and not subject to veto, confirmation, or even reexamination. It will do us both good to understand the real meaning of this alliance and put it in its natural historical context. The agreements that were made during the Gulf crisis do not negate the fact that our strategic objectives and national interests differ from those of the United States, though they do not necessarily conflict. Nor do these agreements mean that the United States—which is now forming a new world order under its unilateral leadership and unequalled might—has guaranteed our support indefinitely and without dissension.

I know that these words will not please many people on the domestic front. I also know quite well that the Americans in particular understand their meaning and significance, because they are a scientific and objective people who study and understand developments in all their aspects, especially those of historic significance. Through research centers, decisionmaking circles, and the legitimate leadership's institutions, they make great efforts to understand the psychology of the people they deal with, their weaknesses and strengths, their negative and positive aspects, and their victories and defeats. This, along with many other factors, enabled the Americans to advance while others in the international arena fell behind. Look around and you can see the evidence.

What we want to say is that there are many common interests and unique aspects of our relations that bind us to the United States, but these do not put us in a subservient position, nor should they. We rebelled in the past against subservience to the British, the French, and the Soviets when they tried to impose their hegemony on us through various political, military, and economic means. The sensitivity to national independence and the need to protect the pan-Arab identity are deeply rooted and make us constantly on guard against foreign influence.

It is unfortunate that Saddam Husayn and his adventurous regime have compelled us to enter a political-military alliance stemming from an unexpected problem and governed by specific motives. When that problem was resolved, the alliance became immaterial. The

Americans understand this better than some of us because, as we said, they are a scientific people while we remain an emotional one.

Since before the Gulf crisis, there has been a pivotal issue on which our policy differs from that of the United States—the Palestinian issue and the Arab-Israeli conflict. This is in addition to our differences over the consequences of the Gulf war itself, such as the destruction of Iraq and the continued punishment of the fraternal Iraqi people due to a wrong committed by their president. Because the Americans are aware of how deep the Palestinian issue is in our hearts, they pledged—through President Bush himself—to work seriously to resolve this issue as soon as the Gulf crisis had ended according to the same rules of international legitimacy that were applied to that crisis. They did so solely to tempt us to join the international alliance against the Iraqi adventure.

But when the Gulf crisis ended and its implications disappeared, U.S. policy returned to its previous course, totally aligning itself with the Israeli position. Instead of maintaining a balanced policy between the Arabs and Israel, we found that the United States tended to exert pressure on the Arabs for further concessions on the pretext of moderation. The Americans got all they wanted and more. The Israelis, however, continued their intransigence whenever they saw Arab moderation, concession, and American and European sympathy. This is why today we call for a reexamination of our position and for our American friends to do the same if they really care about continued friendship and cooperation.

Three main positions require reexamination, particularly by Washington:

1. From our point of view, the nature of U.S. efforts to achieve regional peace have not been very energetic. Washington was able to secure our concession, moderation, and acceptance of the offers of Bush, Baker, and even Cheney—the U.S. Administration's hawk who shocked us with his provocative stands and statements. Washington stood silent, however, except for some rhetorical statements, when faced with increasing Israeli intransigence, at a time when it had every means at its disposal to exert effective pressure on Israel. We wonder: Why has it not exerted this pressure on Israel if it really wants permanent and comprehensive peace in the region, which it regards as a vital sphere of influence central to its strategic interests—or is it contradicting itself and engaging in major deception?

2. Similar to this is the United States' real position on Israel's frantic efforts to establish settlements and settle thousands of Soviet and Falasha Jews in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, which are the subject of the intended—or alleged—negotiations between us and the Israelis.

We have noticed that American policy is contradictory on this subject. While Washington deflects our attention with rhetorical statements condemning the Israeli settlements, it continues to support openly the establishment of these settlements with money, weapons, and pressure on other states, such as the Soviet Union, Ethiopia, Syria, Iraq, and India, to allow the Jews to emigrate to Israel so they can settle in what remains of the occupied Arab lands.

3. Most important is the substantial contradiction inherent in President Bush's initiative to stop the Mideast arms race. While he calls on us to destroy our missiles and chemical weapons which have limited capabilities, he excludes Israel's huge stockpile of nuclear, biological, and chemical weapons. He even extends assistance to Israel to develop its long-range and antiballistic missiles so it can remain master of the situation until the next century, imposing its absolute will and total domination on us through its nuclear and conventional superiority.

Where are the concrete manifestations of America's friendship with us, and what is its understanding of this friendship, beyond the "burning love affair" produced by a transient crisis, in this case the Gulf crisis?

Are we not entitled to demand that we and our friends examine the situation before the bullet of a violent counterreaction is fired?

A deceptive friendship is the ultimate sham.

Foreign Minister Interviewed on Mideast, Iraq

NC2406195591 Cairo AL-AHALI in Arabic 19 Jun 91 p 3

[Report on interview with Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa by chief editor Philip Jallab—place, date not given]

[Text] The purpose of our meeting was to agree on a date to conduct an interview, but Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa is "always ready." He knows what he wants and what to say. He does not hesitate to attack even when one thinks he must adopt a defensive position. Dialogue with some is like playing "backgammon." Others, like 'Amr Musa, force you to revive some of old your prowess in "chess." For this reason, the actual interview began during the meeting, which had been solely intended to agree on a date for the interview. Part of the interview aims to present the Egyptian foreign minister's ideas so those who support and those who oppose them might do so knowledgeably. Another part of the interview consists of a difference of views, without this affecting friendship.

The confrontation began with the issue that occupies our minds and which must place all those who admire the so-called new world order in a predicament: Why does the world (U.S.) order use two standards to deal with the Gulf and Palestinian issues, despite all that was said during the war?

The minister, who will not adopt a defensive position, said: Let us begin by talking about the nature of current

international conditions in order to pave the way for answering this question. The world is passing through a transitional period between two eras. Many issues have not yet definitively settled in the new era. Among these are the follow issues:

—Rearranging the relationship between East and West after the East has been swallowed up.
—Reassessing the relationship between the North and South.
—Ending regional crises before embarking on the new era.
—Presenting new concepts which will lead to the supremacy of democracy and market economics for everyone.
—The priority of the disarmament issue in tomorrow's world for the major powers and less powerful countries.
—Replacing confrontation with a balance of interests. This will affect the issues of security, deterrence, and spheres of influence in the traditional sense.

These are some future landmarks that come in the wake of developments which imparted a special role for a single superpower, which is the strongest country. All activity revolves around it. Its power comes from the fact that it triumphed in the cold war and that it is the leader of the strongest and richest group of countries in history.

[Jallab] After this detailed introduction, why has not the United States adhered to the same policy it used with Iraq—or even something less—regarding Israel? Since the end of the Gulf war and the destruction of Iraq, we have been listening to curious statements. U.S. statements have returned us to somewhere lower than square one. The United States is demanding that bridges of trust be restored between ourselves and Israel. Israel is translating this into new settlements in the occupied territories. The United states also announces openly that it will not exert pressure on anyone (meaning Israel) to achieve peace. In the Gulf crisis, however, its method was war and military strikes that left Iraq more battered than required to get its forces out of Kuwait.

[Musa] The Gulf crisis was acute, unexpected, and urgent. It came in the transitional period which made the Arab world move in a direction contrary with that of the entire world. Hence the response was sharp. The facts of the Palestinian issue, however, are different. It is similar to South Africa's crisis because of its long history. It requires a different diplomatic method. Nevertheless, this does not mean that serious efforts are not taking place to achieve a peace based on negotiation and dialogue instead of confrontation. This is happening now, although not all the stages have been played out yet.

[Jallab] There are, however, specific and binding UN Security Council resolutions. Why are they not implemented?

[Musa] Resolutions 242 and 338 are the basis of the agenda. They state that it is impermissible to acquire territory by force and that the solution of the crisis should come through negotiation.

[Jallab] Why do we not ask the UN Security Council to adopt a resolution to force Israel to withdraw if it does not implement the previous resolutions?

[Musa] The major powers do not agree. They are not convinced of this.

[Jallab] Why do we not mobilize our diplomatic efforts to convince, or embarrass them?

[Musa] They will not adopt a resolution that will lead to a military confrontation with Israel. New circumstances exist now, and the two superpowers have the same position. Meanwhile, the Third World is completely divided. The rules of politics and the balance of power in the world allow us only to try to draw the major powers reasonably closer to our position.

[Jallab] What harm is there in trying?

[Musa] We have tried and they refused. The Arab world is also trying with us. We have not been lax in our efforts. The United States speaks today of land for peace. This is a positive change.

[Jallab] But Israel changed in a negative way.

[Musa] That is why President Bush said that the continued construction of settlements in the occupied territories will lead to a halt in U.S. aid for Jewish immigrants. This is a change in Washington's stand and a new development. We cannot deny that fact. We do not take hostile positions toward the United States. Perhaps you take one from an ideological standpoint. Our diplomacy is neither Marxist nor American; it springs from Egyptian interests and utilizes everything to serve these interests without rigidity.

[Jallab] Our stand toward the United States stems from the sound and practical slogan of "We befriend those friendly to us and we upset those who upset us." In a statement before the U.S. Congress recently, William Quandt, a prominent U.S. figure, pointed out that the United States fought in the Gulf war only to serve its own interests and those of Israel. Quandt said: We fought in the Gulf for two reasons. First: Oil. Second: To destroy Iraq's military might, which could have posed the only military threat in the future to Israel. What do think of that?

[Musa] Quandt's talk represents one argument, not the only one. Another one was that oil was the only reason for the war. A third was that Iraq's stand constituted a blatant deviation from the current international trend. Perhaps it was a combination of all these reasons. Perhaps the Israeli dimension was not the prevailing one.

[Jallab] In your statement before the People Assembly's Arab and Foreign Relations Committee you attacked the saying "what was taken by force can only be regained by force" [a statement made by former President Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir] as superficial.

[Musa] Yes. I attacked it because it was said in the context of the Palestinian issue. All sayings are outdated now. We have to take the new circumstances into consideration; that is, to use dialogue, political pressure, and international legitimacy.

[Jallab] The force referred to in the saying does not necessarily mean waging war. It means having the military, economic, and political power that could convince an opponent that, when necessary, we are capable of regaining our rights in a number of ways.

[Musa] I do not exclude all possibilities in such cases, only the military one.

[Jallab] In the past and now under the new world order that means that only one country, the United States, has the right to use military force, as was the case in the Gulf and elsewhere.

[Musa] No. Every state is guaranteed the right of legitimate defense under Article 51 of the UN Charter.

[Jallab] Mr. Minister: Given the current balance of power and history, how can the United States be equally fair both to us and to Israel militarily and politically?

[Musa] We have to work with all our power to reach a point where Israel is not treated as a privileged country, which is not acceptable.

[Jallab] The latest Bush initiative on weapons of mass destruction and regional arms limitations contradicts what you are saying because it gives Israel all the advantages.

[Musa] We have not accepted the proposal. President Husni Mubarak announced an Egyptian initiative which calls for the establishment of a zone free of weapons of mass destruction. Our position is that no state or type of weapon, particularly nuclear weapons, must be excluded. This is the basis on which all the measures are based. Due to our lack of confidence in Israeli actions and plans, we want international inspection procedures to apply to Israel as well.

[Jallab] Some think that Israel will retain its existing nuclear weapons but will end its production and attempt to say that we should let bygones be bygones.

[Musa] What is bygone is not bygone with regard to nuclear weapons. All stored weapons must be taken into consideration.

[Jallab] But the practical result is that the weapons that will be destroyed are the ones an Arab state, namely Iraq, possesses. The same rules will not apply to the other party.

[Musa] This is another matter that pertains to the sanctions which are being applied according to Chapter 7 of the UN Charter. We do not have the power to do anything about it. We must not delude ourselves that we can stop the application of the UN Charter.

[Jallab] You have mentioned the need to mobilize all Arab diplomatic forces to liberate the Arab territories. What have you done in this regard, considering that the Arab world is now in a fluid and weak situation?

[Musa] We have a great responsibility to reunify the Arab world, but it must take place on a new basis. We must get rid of slogans, illusions, and division, and keep abreast of international developments. We must stop using force against each other or do anything to damage any Arab state's sovereignty. We must work for economic integration, identify specific and codified interests, and respect Arab and international legitimacy.

[Jallab] What does reunification mean when the Arab states have failed to do it and have been put in a position of an adversary?

[Musa] Our efforts are still in the beginning stages. Reunification does not mean just turning a new leaf. First we must clear the atmosphere.

[Text] Does this mean dealing with Iraq?

[Musa] Dealing with the Iraqi regime is difficult as it has burned all the bridges of confidence with us and the other Arabs, and there are now different rules. This does not mean that popular ties will be severed or that we accept any infringement of Iraq's existence, including attempts to partition it. Neither do we accept Saddam Husayn's humiliating treatment of the Iraqi people. We call on Iraq to put the recent past behind it, join the Arab fold, and commit itself to Arab legitimacy.

[Jallab] Don't you think that everything that has befallen Iraq has harmed the Iraqi people and not the Iraqi regime?

[Musa] That is true, because the Iraqi regime does not care about the people's sufferings.

[Jallab] Is there any contemplation of restoring diplomatic relations if the aim is to help the Iraqi people?

[Musa] There is no such thinking. It was Iraq that severed relations.

[Jallab] But we have relations with Israel despite its continued aggression, and we are content with responding simply by making statements but not by taking stands.

[Musa] We are not content with simple statements when it comes to Israel, and we do take political stands. You can see this by examining the president's statements. There is a decisive Egyptian position, and we do not accept Israel's policy. What is important for us is to bring Israel to the negotiating table for the Palestinian people's sake.

[Jallab] Can't we do the same with Iraq?

[Musa] They were the ones who severed relations with us.

[Jallab] What if they ask to have them restored?

[Musa] We have not severed relations with the Iraqi people. It was the Iraqi Government that severed its relations with us.

[Jallab] But there are reports that they want to restore them.

[Musa] And what about the lack of confidence?

[Jallab] We try to rebuild the bridges of confidence as we are doing with Israel.

[Musa] These are two different matters. Iraq is a fraternal country and was not expected to make claims like those made by Saddam Husayn.

[Jallab] You mean what the poet said...

[MUsa] Yes. "The injustice of relatives is more bitter." This does not mean that the Israeli actions are not bitter. These actions are rejected in principle. The injustice brought upon the Palestinian people and the fait accompli Israel is trying to impose are unacceptable. The talk about the injustice inflicted by relatives being more bitter is only a poetic verse.

[Jallab] What is your view of the position on the PLO?

[Musa] The PLO is the representative of the Palestinian people as long as the latter agrees to this repesentation. We do not interfere with the Palestinian people's decision.

[Jallab] And the other parties, such as Yemen and Sudan?

[Musa] They are all fraternal countries with their own circumstances. We hope that they will be put on the right course in line with everybody's interests.

Paper Decries Lack of U.S. Response to Shamir

NC2206065591 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0625 GMT 22 Jun 91

[Text] Cairo, 22 Jun (MENA)—AL-AHRAM says that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's confirmation that his government will continue its settlement program and that he is confident U.S. aid and facilities for Israel will not cease challenges the most senior U.S. officials in their own backyard.

In its editorial headlined "A Missing Response", the paper notes that this challenge confirms the degree of influence the Israeli officials have in Washington and the amount of power they have over it, to the extent that Shamir can say the United States in no way will stop helping Israel.

AL-AHRAM notes that Shamir is threatening and warning, and that his choice of words is almost a clear provocation when he says he holds many cards in his hand, of which U.S. political circles are well aware. The least of these is the ability to activate the Zionist lobby, to direct where Jewish contributions are made during elections, and to influence the voting pattern in the coming U.S. presidential elections.

Concluding its editorial, the paper adds it is regrettable that no equally strident U.S. response has been made to Shamir's statements, even though more than one week has passed since his categorical rejection of President George Bush's appeal to stop the Israeli settlement program in the occupied Arab territories.

Editorial Sees Israeli 'Delusion' on Settlements

NC2206210391 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1950 GMT 22 Jun 91

[Excerpt] Cairo, 22 Jun (MENA)—In an editorial headlined "Methods of Delusion," published in Sunday's edition, the newspaper AL-AHRAM denounces Israel's methods of misleading the international community and notes that the international community has rejected the building of Israeli settlements in the occupied Arab territories.

The paper asks: Hasn't the United States explored how serious Israel is about future negotiations, particularly on the issue of settlements? If it has, why doesn't it adopt a new strategy to save the situation and, indeed, salvage its own efforts? The paper notes that if a peace conference is held simply as a formality, it will not be to the United States' credit.

AL-AHRAM wonders: Is the United States merely fostering the illusion of action toward peace with a view to the election year?

AL-AHRAM's remarks react to an Israeli newspaper's recent report of a new official method to deceive the international community on the settlements issue. It involves drawing up plans for new settlements, half to be built in Israel and half in the occupied territories, and, at the beginning, limiting construction to those settlements in Israel as the plan's first phase. [passage omitted]

Returnees From Qatar Say Contracts Terminated

NC2006102491 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 16 Jun 91 p 1

[Report by Hasan al-Shayib]

[Text] A total of 2,000 Egyptians who have been working in Qatar returned to Egypt recently via Nuwaybi' port after learning that their contracts had been suddenly terminated as part of the Qatari policy of ending Palestinian and Sudanese workers' contracts!!!

Upon arrival, the returning Egyptians said their employers notified them 15 days ago that their contracts had been terminated, and their passports were returned so they could go back to Egypt. According to the returnees, they were given little time to prepare and had to abandon their belongings or sell them at cheap prices.

A responsible official at Nuwaybi' port has said that dozens of Egyptians are returning daily from Qatar following the termination of their contracts. He said that 88 families returned with their cars on 14 June.

*Unions Threaten Strike Against Public Sector Bill

91P40315A Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 11 Jun 91 p 3

[Text] Representatives of 44 union committees from engineering companies belonging to the General Union of Engineering, Metallurgical, and Electrical Industries have affirmed their rejection of the public sector operations bill. They have demanded that it be amended and have threatened a sit-in, strike, and demonstration if this dubious law is not amended.

Morocco

'National Popular Movement' Party Established

LD2006120891 Rabat MAP in English 1246 GMT 18 Jun 91

[Text] Marrakesh, June 18 (MAP)—A new Moroccan political party, "the National Popular Movement" (MNP) was set up Monday. The constituent congress held here unanimously elected Mahjoubi Aherdane secretary general of the new party and adopted the party's statute.

The broad lines of the goals and reforms of the MNP as stipulated by Article II of the statute evolve around the defense of the country's constitutional institutions and sacred values, the defense of the Kingdom's territorial integrity and the contribution to the setting up of democratic foundations at the political, economic, social and cultural levels.

The same article stresses the importance of training to enable the citizen run his own affairs, the country's development in the context of devolution, and the need to reduce regional unbalances and back the private sector.

The defense of the state of law, of human rights and of woman's rights, the promotion of women's role in social development, the consolidation of youth's role in the development process, the reform of education programs to promote the diversity of languages and cultures are also among the new party's objectives.

In matters of external policy, the MNP stresses the need to back the edification of the large Arab Maghreb, to struggle against all forms of racial discrimination and to back the legitimate struggle of the Palestinian people.

Aherdane who took the floor after his election surveyed the liberation struggle waged by the Moroccan people and spoke of his party's determination to join efforts with other Moroccan parties to defend territorial unity, achieve social justice, defend the Moroccan's dignity and consolidate the democratic process.

The MNP secretary general underlined the "national" character of the party pointing out that the militants attending the constituent congress came from all parts of the Kingdom, including from the Saharan provinces and the occupied enclaves of Sebta and Melilla. Aherdane stressed the importance of cooperation between Maghreban political parties and Hailej the fact that the two delegates of the Algerian Socialist Forces Front (FFS) are attending the congress. [sentence as received] Aherdane said the MNP National Council, to be set up shortly, will convene probably next fall to elect a Central Committee that will in turn elect the political bureau.

Sudan

Country To Develop Ties With Ethiopia, Eritrea

EA2406132491 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 19 Jun 91

[Text] Staff Colonel Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah, Revolution Command Council member and deputy chairman of the Political Committee, has confirmed that following the recent incidents witnessed in the Horn of Africa, the overthrow of Mengistu's system in Ethiopia, and the arrival of the new government, there will be a positive conference between the neighboring countries. He said Sudan, for the benefit of the peoples of the region, would develop its relations with the new establishments in Ethiopia and Eritrea to the furthest extent. He pointed out that the security of Sudan, Ethiopia, and Eritrea is an integrated security, and any security imbalance in any of these affects the others.

Col. Khalifah said this yesterday during his meeting with heads of information organs and newspaper editors, adding that Sudan's future relations with the neighboring countries would be political, economic, and security relations, stressing Sudan's stand concerning the rights of the people of Eritrea to choose their future and destiny.

Ethiopia Reportedly Asks Rebels To Leave

EA2206094291 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 21 Jun 91

[Text] A report reaching us this morning from Addis Ababa says that the Ethiopian Government has asked the Sudanese rebels to leave its territory and to return the hostages and property they seized during their attacks on the refugee camps in western Ethiopia during the past few days.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees had earlier reported that shipments to the refugee camps had been halted after the Sudanese rebels destroyed roads and bridges and seized the food set aside for refugees in western Ethiopia.

500 Rebels Reportedly Surrender in Sobat

EA2506091691 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 2145 GMT 19 Jun 91

[Text] Brigadier Pio Yukwan, member of the Revolution Command Council and chairman of the Political Com-

mittee, received Mr. Peter Sharumen, governor of Sobat bordering Ethiopia, in his office at the People's Hall today. The governor briefed Brig. Pio Yukwan on the security and administrative situation in the province. He also informed him that 500 rebels have surrendered with their weapons. The security committee in the province received and fed them.

The chairman of the Political Committee explained that the various state organs will do their best to draw the returnees away from the rebellion and to provide them with security and shelter. His excellency called on all to contribute earnestly toward the return of peace and stability to the southern areas.

Four Rebel Camps Destroyed in South Kurdufan

EA2206152091 Khartoum SUNA in French 1645 GMT 19 Jun 91

[Text] Khartoum, 19 Jun (SUNA)—The Armed Forces and the friendly forces have destroyed four camps belonging to the rebels in the south Kurdufan region, we learned from a well-informed source within the Armed Forces.

According to the same source, the Armed Forces inflicted heavy material damage and human losses on rebel ranks and captured a great quantity of arms and ammunition.

The military source also revealed that rebel elements and their families are continuing to surrender to the Armed Forces in the south Kurdufan region, stressing that these returnees had indicated that they are now convinced that war will never solve the country's problems and that they have decided to join the great family in order to build the country.

Tunisia

Ba'th Party, PUP Criticize Economic Embargo

JN2306080891 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 0300 GMT 23 Jun 91

[Text] The Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and the Tunisian Popular Unity Party [PUP] have stressed the need to continue the struggle to break the economic blockade imposed on Iraq.

In a joint statement issued at the conclusion of meetings held in Tunis yesterday under comrade 'Adnan Dawud Salman, deputy official in charge of foreign relations at the party's Regional Command, and (Mohamed Bel Hadj Amor), secretary general of the Tunisian PUP, the two parties branded the economic blockade imposed on Iraq as an act of aggression and an immoral practice meant to starve the Iraqi people and halt the process of economic, cultural, and human development in Iraq.

The two parties called for making persistent and comprehensive efforts to thwart the objectives of the hostile media campaign being led by the Western agencies with a view to affecting the Arab masses' enthusiasm and fervor and reducing their effectiveness.

The statement indicated that the presence of Atlantic troops in the Arab region represents a flagrant violation of international legitimacy and a poses certain danger to pan-Arab security. The statement stressed the need to defend the unity of Iraq—land and people—and confront the hostile schemes that aim to interfere in its internal affairs.

The Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and the PUP recalled the double standards being pursued by the United States and its allies in their dealing with events, especially with regard to their positions on the Palestine question. The two parties affirmed that the issue of the Palestinian Arab people is the pivot of Arab struggle and that pan-Arab responsibility necessitates the demonstration of a commitment to the right of the Palestinian people to establish their state on their national soil.

The two parties agreed to continue their efforts to mobilize the Arab masses toward escalating their liberation struggle and defending the cultural existence of the Arab nation.

Kuwait

Government To Lift Martial Law

LD2506110191 London KUNA in Arabic 1017 GMT 25 Jun 91

[Text] London, 25 Jun (KUNA)—The SAWT AL-KUWAIT newspaper has cited Ghari 'Ubayd al-Sammar, minister of justice and legal affairs, as saying that the period of martial law in Kuwait will end tomorrow and will not be extended for a further period. The Kuwaiti minister told the newspaper that the cases which are still being heard in the court martial circuits will be referred to the regular courts, which will hear the cases and issue the final sentences. He emphasized that the trials that have taken place in Kuwait were "fair," and said that "the greatest evidence on the fairness of these trials is the fact that they are public and before everyone."

Al-Sammar announced that the Kuwaiti Government will demand the return of "the prisoners of unspecified nationality who were captured while under the protection of the Kuwaiti flag."

He stated that the government will soon begin paying the salaries of the prisoners of war and handing these salaries to their families.

Central Bank Governor Denies Dinar Devaluation

LD2506132691 London KUNA in Arabic 1137 GMT 25 Jun 91

[Excerpt] Kuwait, 25 Jun (KUNA)—Shaykh Salim 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Sabah, the governor of the Kuwaiti Central Bank, said here today that assertions about reducing the rate of exchange of the Kuwaiti dinar are "totally untrue and unlikely".

In a statement to KUNA, he added that the bank has decided to raise the ceiling of the maximum amount every customer is allowed to withdraw per month from his accounts with local banks from 4,000 to 6,000 dinars or their equivalent in foreign currency as from the beginning of July. Regarding the value of the Kuwaiti dinar Shaykh Salim said: If there were any intention to devalue it, this would have been done last March when the banks started their business. [passage omitted]

PLO Said Planning Return to Terrorism

PM2406140691 London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI in Arabic 21 Jun 91 pp 1, 4

[Unattributed report: "Decision To Assassinate Kuwaiti... and Palestinian Figures"] txt
[Text] Tunis, SAWT AL-KUWAYT—A high-level confidential Palestinian meeting was held in the Tunisian capital last week. It was chaired by Yasir 'Arafat and attended by a number of his aides and supporters. The participants reached a number of serious decisions that conflict with the Palestine National Council decisions and the Palestinian leadership's claim to have renounced terrorism.

While Palestinian "terrorism"—which the leadership itself renounced in order to play its role through many concessions in the settlement of the Middle East crisis—was aimed against Israel, this time it will take other forms, since the "leadership" has decided to entrust some of its armed groups and terrorists with the physical elimination of numerous political, economic, and press figures, as well as a number of Palestinian figures who opposed the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, thus violating the PLO position supporting the Iraqi ruler in his aggression.

Palestinian sources close to the meeting have revealed to SAWT AL-KUWAYT that 'Arafat and his supporters discussed the conditions experienced by the PLO, and especially its Arab and international isolation because of its known stances during the Gulf crisis. On 'Arafat's personal orders, they decided that the return to terrorism and violence is unavoidable in order to draw the world's attention to the PLO again, but this time it will be aimed against the Kuwaitis.

The sources pointed out that the new terror campaign is in response to the PLO's recent insistent allegations about the current trials by the Kuwaiti State Security Court of those who collaborated with the Iraqi occupation forces during the invasion. These include groups of Palestinians belonging to the 'Arafat leadership. They helped Saddam's forces in numerous fields, such as espionage and the press, or by supplying information about members of the Kuwaiti national resistance and by insulting the Kuwaitis.

The meeting in question was also attended by organs specialized in training terrorist cadres. They include members of the so-called Fatah Revolutionary Council. They include people who have led and carried out several terrorist operations in Arab and Western capitals.

It is known that the late Palestinian leader Salah Khalaf (Abu-Iyad), who was assassinated early this year on 'Arafat's orders, decided when he was in charge of the Palestinian security organ to dissolve all the organizations entrusted with terrorism in the various capitals, because he believed that such actions do not serve the Palestinian cause. In fact he visited several European states and provided their security officials with comprehensive lists of terrorists. He also suspended his financial aid to them. It seems that the new security leadership which succeeded Abu-Iyad and which is headed by Hakam Bal'awi, who is very close to 'Arafat, will draw up these lists again, but with new names and by totally different methods. In launching the new terrorist operations it could use new covers such as some of the establishments abroad which are financed by Yasir 'Arafat.

Saudi Arabia

Iran's Velayati Ends Pilgrimage, Departs

LD2506080891 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0248 GMT 25 Jun 91

[Text] Jeddah, 24 Jun (SPA)—Iranian Foreign Minister Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati and the delegation accompanying him left Jeddah this evening after performing the pilgrimage rites.

He was seen off at King 'abd-al-'Aziz International Airport by the director of the Foreign Ministry's branch in Jeddah, Salim Sunbul, and by a representative of the Royal protocol office.

AL-HAWADITH Interviews King Fahd

LD2106215891 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1530 GMT 21 Jun 91

[Excerpts] London, 21 Jun (SPA)—King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the custodian of the two holy mosques, has stated that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is a country that has consultative bodies on political, economic, financial, educational, and military issues.

King Fahd added, in an interview with the Lebanese [London-based] paper AL-HAWADITH published today, Friday, that these institutions deal with all sorts of daily life; through their tireless efforts they provide the best level of service for the benefit of the Saudi citizens, not only for today but also for tomorrow, which should be much better, God willing.

The custodian of the two holy mosques asserted that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has, for the last 30 years, had a well-tailored organizational system, this has led to the emergence of a state of institutions, allowing Saudis to be responsible citizens in their respect of the body of laws, the content of which has been derived from God's book and the teaching of his prophet, may God's peace and prayers be upon him.

King Fahd added: Since I was entrusted with the responsibility of running the state, which I did not choose, we have been concentrating on the development of conditions, services, and gains in order to ensure the prosperity and welfare of the Saudi citizen, in whose interest every achievement has been undertaken. [passage omitted]

The custodian of the two holy mosques discussed the system of consultation. He said: The consultation system has been in place since the days of king 'Abd-al-'Aziz and has hitherto functioned well. We shall work to promote its structure and form so as to enable it to assume the responsibility entrusted to it. It will include dozens of people and jurisdictions, perform its duties in all matters internal and external, and have an opinion on them. That is the sort of participation which safeguards the public interest and which will be relied upon to secure the desired cooperation betwen the leadership and the citizen.

The king was asked a question on the war for the liberation of Kuwait and how he had managed to mobiize all those international and Arab forces which helped the kingdom to score such an international victory, a victory that will remain throughout history as one of the shining episode in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's glories. King Fahd said: Indeed, I am fortunate to have had very good friendship's with most leaders in the Arab and Islamic world, as well as with leaders of friendly countries. In this context, my friendship with President George Bush is a very old one, dating back to the days before he became president; that is, when he was vice president.

The king continued: As everyone knows Iraq amassed hundreds of thousands of its troops, supported by heavy artillery, along our borders. As soon as we realized that Iraq was harboring evil and treachery against us, particularly once it had occupied Kuwait despite its promises, I seized the initiative by making a historic decision and shouldering the consequences of such a decision—I had no alternative but to make such a decision. Consequently, I extended invitations to all fraternal Arab and Islamic countries as well as friendly powers to come to the help of our Saudi Armed Forces and do their duty by defending the homeland and its resources. Those countries responded positively by extending their assistance. Here I would like to add that President Bush, who was the first one to respond to my request, he told me that U.S. forces would start arriving immediately; the greater part would, however, be arriving in stages until the desired goal was achieved: repulsing Iraq and putting an end to its aggression. Afterward, more positive responses were received from Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and President Mitterrand. Prime Minister Major followed Mrs Thatcher's policies in this respect. Egypt, Morocco, and Syria were also in the forefront of those countries that complied with our request; they adopted the noblest fraternal stance. In short, 30 countries came to our aid: some of them sent land, naval, and air forces; others only sent forces of one kind. [passage omitted] Asked about the future of Iraq, King Fahd replied that it is not possible for the situation to continue as it is now [word indistinct] people cannot accept the mistakes have made.

About [words indistinct] Iraq's disagreements with Kuwait, King Fahd said: I tried several times to intervene to avert any problems between Iraq and Kuwait. My brother His Excellency President Muhammad Husni Mubarak contributed to those efforts. Unfortunately, what we all know to have happened did happen and there is no need to go over it again.

The Iraqi people cannot agree to go back to the past, to waste energies, the future, and stability. The Iraqi people are bound to be wondering why Saddam Husayn restored the 1975 agreement in accordance with which territory reverted to Iran; why he embarked on a losing war in which he wasted lives and resources and destroyed everything in Iraq; and why he had occupied Kuwait only to leave it in loss and defeat. I do not think that the Iraqi people can tolerate the destructive war which lasted over eight years.

Asked whether Saudi Arabia was deeply hurt by the Palestinian leadership and insists on boycotting it, the king said: This is inaccurate. We respect their legitimate rights. Everyone should help them to fulfill these rights, which are recognized by all countries. We have never hesitated to do anything they wanted. Here I would like to recall something that is a fact: King Faysal was the first to contribute to the establishment of Fatah, which grew because of his support and guidance. Today we treat the Palestinians residing with us as we used to treat them before the war. The same applies to Yemen, Sudan, and Jordan. Our treatment of people has not changed; rather, the care and facilities we have given them prove that the differences in stances have not affected our behavior toward the citizens of these countries.

On the future of Lebanon after the al-Ta'if agreement the custodian of the two holy mosques said: The Lebanese have a very important place in our hearts, and we have always expressed that. Whatever makes them happy will make us happy and whatever harms them will harm us. In al-Ta'if we exerted an effort which was crowned with success because of the understanding shown by their leaders. Lebanon has recently ratified an agreement with Syria. We were pleased about this because it is an implementation of what was decided in al-Ta'if. In my opinion the situation in Lebanon is progressing from good to better. We will continue to support that dear country until it regains its strength and unity.

In reply to a question about pilgrimage this year, King Fahd said: God willing, it will be safe and the Muslims will perform their rites comfortably and securely, without any disputes. All the pilgrimage missions have coordinated with the Saudi authorities concerned and agreed on all the relevant matters. I have learned that President Rafsanjani directed the Iranian pilgrims to adhere to the pilgrimage instructions. The pilgrims will benefit this year from the expanded facilities and security which will prevail everywhere during this sacred occasion.

In reply to a question about the restoration of sincerity to the Arab ranks King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud expressed the hope that this would happen on genuine and serious bases. Those who call for this should be honest and truthful in what they say, and their sincerity should stem from the heart and not just from the lips, he stated. There should also be firmly stressed that the majority should strongly condemn and deter anyone who harms others, otherwise any effort exerted in this direction would be meaningless.

Asked about the extent of Saudi support for President George Bush's call for a new world order and the removal of destructive weapons, King Fahd said that all countries would like this, but is it possible? Perhaps it is if intentions and hearts become pure, he stated. The custodian of the two holy mosques added: I sincerely appreciate President Bush and appreciate all the help he gave us in a battle which was imposed on us and which we did not want. If it had not been for his efforts the situation would not have been restored to normal.

At the end of the interview, King Fahd denied that there are any prisoners in Saudi Arabia. He said: We have always followed a policy of emptying our prisons of ordinary prisoners on every occasion. Every citizen who considers that he has wronged has the right to go to court at the appropriate level. This is also a legitimate right of those who reside in Saudi Arabia.

Charge d'Affaires Denies IRNA Hajj Report

LD2106204791 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1748 GMT 21 Jun 91

[Text] Jeddah, 21 Jun (SPA)—Badr 'Uthman Bakhsh, charge d'affaires at the embassy of the custodian of the two holy mosques in Tehran, has denied reports by some foreign radio stations, citing an IRNA report quoting Mr. Bakhsh as having said "There are some foreign parties which hope for clashes between Iran and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia during the absolution ceremonies," and also a commentary by IRNA. In a statement to SPA, Bakhsh regretted the spreading and reporting of such lies and fabrications which do not help the development of relations between the two sister countries. He stressed that the report is unfounded on the whole and in detail.

Kurdish Rebels Meet To Discuss Autonomy Accord

NC2206161291 Paris AFP in English 1538 GMT 22 Jun 91

[Text] Ankara, June 22 (AFP)—Kurdish rebel leaders held an unprecendented meeting Thursday in northern Iraq to examine with Mas'ud Barzani of the Democratic Party of Kurdistan (DPK) his efforts to secure an agreement on autonomy with Baghdad, the mass-circulation MILLIYET newspaper reported Saturday.

It said the meeting at Shaqlawah was attended by members of the Kurdish Front of Iraq, an umbrella movement for eight key Kurdish opposition groups including the influential Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK).

Mr. Barzani informed the other leaders on the results of protracted negotiations he had with Iraqi officials in Baghdad over the past few weeks to secure autonomy for Iraq's four million Kurdish community.

Mr. Barzani recently left Baghdad saying that the agreement had been worked out.

Iraqi newspapers have said the accord could be signed next week amid warnings from Iran where the press urged the Kurdish community against "any promise of compromise" with Baghdad, in the words of the TEHRAN TIMES.

Barzani Comments on Agreement With Baghdad

AU2206141691 Mainz ZDF Television Network in German 1730 GMT 21 Jun 91

[Interview with Mas'ud Barzani, leader of the Democratic Party of Kurdistan, by Ulrich Tilgner "in a village near the Turkish border"; date not given; in English with superimposed German translation—recorded]

[Text] [Barzani] We have achieved very good results, and I think the matter is finished. I have come back to Kurdistan to discuss the agreement with my companions and the people. I will return to Baghdad in the next few days and the agreement will be signed. Then everything will be settled. I think that for 30 bloody years, 40 days of negotiations are a short time.

[Tilgner] What was the reaction of the people with whom you discussed the results here in Kurdistan?

[Barzani] I am very glad to tell you that 90 percent of the people have agreed to the agreement and strongly back it.

[Tilgner] What are the main points of the agreement?

[Barzani] Well, the main points are a new autonomy law, democracy for Iraq, and the normalization of the situation in Kurdistan. These are the main points.

[Tilgner] That means that the Kurds will not have their own security forces in the future. Is that correct?

[Barzani] Of course. If the Peshmerga form part of the Army, the police, or the secret service, there is no necessity to have separate units.

[Tilgner] But then the political organizations will in the future not have many armed organizations.

[Barzani] Of course, and there is no need for that. They should use political means, not arms.

[Tilgner] Is it not a tactic of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn to achieve agreement with the Kurds to make life easier for himself on the domestic policy front, without really changing his former policy?

[Barzani] I do not believe that. If he signs the agreement—I think he knows the price of his signature. That is my hope.

Kurdish Front To Meet 'Later Monday or Tuesday'

NC2406121191 Paris AFP in English 1141 GMT 24 Jun 91

[Text] Manama, June 24 (AFP)—Key Kurdish leaders Jalal Talabani and Mas'ud Barzani will chair a meeting of the Kurdistan Front later Monday or Tuesday to discuss the state of autonomy negotations with the Iraqi Government, a spokesman for Mr. Talabani's group disclosed.

Yusuf Juzani of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) said in a telephone interview with AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE that the meeting would group representatives from the eight members of the Front, including Mr. Barzani and his Democratic Party of Kurdistan (DPK).

The meeting will be held in Shaqlawah, Iraqi Kurdistan, where Mr. Barzani on Thursday chaired a meeting of the Kurdistan Front to report on the progress of his talks with the Baghdad government.

According to a report Saturday by the Turkish newspaper MILLIYET, Mr. Talabani did not attend Thursday's talks but he was represented by a PUK official.

Mr. Barzani recently left Baghdad saying an agreement on the future status of Iraqi Kurdistan, along with measures to promote democracy throughout Iraq, had already been worked out in principle with the government of President Saddam Husayn.

But Mr. Talabani has been more cautious in his assessment, warning that the talks could take more time to bear fruit.

"The negotiations between Kurds and the central government could last very long," Mr. Talabani had said on June 12, adding that the status of the oil-rich northern Iraqi town of Karkuk and the drafting of a new constitution were the main points of differences that remained to be solved.

Mr. Talabani had led the initial round of negotiations with the Iraqi Government in April while Mr. Barzani later resumed the talks.

The PUK spokesman said the future of the accord was linked to the discussions in Shaqlawah.

The spokesman said that before any agreement could be signed the groups forming the Kurdistan Front would have to meet separately with their political and military hierarchies to define their positions.

Senior Ba'th Officials Reportedly Executed

LD2406171191 Tehran IRNA in English 1556 GMT 24 Jun 91

[Text] Ahvaz (Khuzestan), June 24, IRNA—Two senior members of the Iraqi Ba'th party in Missan Province were summoned to Baghdad and executed upon Saddam Husayn's orders without any trial, an Iraqi refugee told IRNA here today.

According to the new arrival from southern Iraq, party officials Javad Sahib and Shiya' Mohalhal had called for an end to the mass arrests and summary executions in Iraq.

He said even minors are finding it hard to escape the worsening repression in Shia-populated southern Iraq, and only a few days ago, 14-year-old Ali Jabbar Ahmed of Al-Ammara was arrested and executed on charges of possessing pictures of religious figures.

Anti-Saddam Forces Continue Operations

NC2506062391 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 0437 GMT 25 Jun 91

[Text] Our revolutionaries' military units carried out various heroic operations to inflict further losses on the collapsing regime's mercenaries, to destroy all its defeated army's material and weapons, and to inspire our popular revolution with hope and an indomitable spirit of Islamic defiance against the rejected 'Afliqi presence in the pure land of the south. We will now broadcast the second part of the popular forces' operations. The first part was broadcast in an earlier news cast. According to a source in the popular forces command in the south, the operations were as follows:

1. The Martyr Abu-Mustafa al-Musawi group attacked two military vehicles on the al-Majarr-al-'Amarah highway early in June, destroying both vehicles and killing all the regime's criminal mercenaries in them.

2. A revolutionary group in the rebellious area of (al-Rifa') launched an assault on a military vehicle, killing three officers: a major and two first lieutenants.

3. The Martyr Abu-Mustafa al-Musawi group attacked an ammunition and arms depot and a number of vehicles of Saddam's 6th division, completely destroying the depot and burning the vehicles. Flames and smoke were seen billowing over the destroyed depot.

Saddam Reportedly Plans To Poison Marshes

NC2206153091 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Opposition in Arabic 1300 GMT 22 Jun 91

[Text] Iraqi opposition sources have affirmed that the defeated tyrant and his senior henchmen have discussed the idea of poisoning the southern marshes with components of chemical and biological warfare to kill the citizens and revolutionaries who have sought refuge in these areas. They added that the tyrant will resort to this tactic after outrage is expressed in Iraq and abroad following reports that he is planning to attack the refugees in the middle of this month.

Explosion, Arrests Reported in South

LD2206145891 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 22 Jun 91

[Text] The sound of a horrific explosion, which occured inside Iraq this morning, shattered glass windows of buildings situated in the border town of Bostan and its environs. According to an IRNA report quoting informed sources, the explosion was probably caused by fighting between the popular and Ba'thist forces.

Also, Iraqi refugees who have recently taken refuge in the Islamic Republic of Iran in an interview with an IRNA correspondent remarked on the siege of Karbala' and al-Najaf by the Ba'thist forces. They also said that the Republican Guard has been arresting those hiding in the southern marshes by deploying helicopters and transferring people to unknown places. These Iraqi refugees went on to say that the Republican Guard has been destroying the houses of opponents.

Envoy on Efforts To Release Assets in Japan

JN2106141691 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 21 Jun 91

[Telephone interview with Ambassador to Japan Rashid al-Rifa'i by George Tarif; date and place not given—live or recorded]

[Text] [Tarif] Mr. Rashid al-Rifa'i, the Iraqi ambassador in Tokyo, you held a news conference in Tokyo this morning and conveyed letters to members of the Japanese parliament. What were the news conference and the letters about?

[Al-Rifa'i] The news conference was about the embargo, which continues to be led by the Americans, British, and French, against Iraq. They are making illegitimate and unacceptable demands in terms of international law and the UN Charter. I also asked the Japanese people, government, and representatives of Japan in the Diet to do their duty to save the Iraqi people from these grave and inhuman practices. The letter I addressed to all Japanese parliamentarians a few days ago was along the same lines. I asked them to take the required measures to apply pressure to end the embargo and to save the Iraqi

people. The letter's purpose is to preclude the pretext being used that nobody asked for any action on this issue. Thus, we are asking them, in the name of humanity, to act to end American, British, and French interference in Iraq's affairs, denying the Iraqi people medicine and food, and causing the death of many Iraqis, especially among children under five.

[Tarif] Do you expect the Japanese Government to release frozen Iraqi assets in Japan?

[AL-Rifa'i] We have been talking for some time with the Japanese Government on this issue, especially since they received a letter from the chairman of the UN special sanctions committee allowing them to free Iraqi assets in Japan for purchasing medicine, food, and other materials that the United Nations has allowed Iraq to import. However, regrettably, we have not received a response from the Japanese Government. We hope that within the next few days we will receive a positive answer. This is because the embargo has no justification at all. The only justification is to kill and annihilate the Iraqi people. This is unacceptable by any humanitarian standards.

[Tarif] Thank you, Mr. Rashid al-Rifa'i, the Iraqi ambassador in Tokyo, for this interview.

[Al-Rifa'i] You are welcome. I wish you and all your listeners a happy 'Id.

'Unholy Alliance' Between U.S., Iran Exposed

JN2206091591 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0730 GMT 22 Jun 91

[Text] Baghdad, 22 Jun (INA)—AL-JUMHURIYAH says current U.S. attempts to achieve rapprochement with Iran are a continuation of the previous coordination between the two parties to lay the groundwork for a fresh operation against Iraq. In today's editorial, the paper affirms that this old and new game will deceive no one. The sons of the Iraqi people, together with the Arabs, Muslims, and free men of the world, know very well what is being planned openly and covertly, among the parties to this unholy alliance.

The Iraqi paper notes that day by day, the hidden relationship between the United States and Iran that was blacked out in the past is becoming increasingly clear.

The paper says: The Irangate scandal has shed more light on the interactions of the secret dealings between the great Satan and the leaders of the Islamic revolution. The paper adds: We knew full well that the slogans of hostility to imperialism, defending the oppressed on earth, and seeking the liberation of Palestine—raised by the Iranian leaders—were slogans for consumption only. The slogans expose the hidden Iranian intentions to block the wheel of Arab progress in general and Iraqi progress in particular.

The paper says that what was hidden regarding U.S.-Iranian relations 10 years ago is now on everyone's lips. The Iranian slogans, which the leaders of Iran boasted about, cannot hide their strong ties with the Americans; and the great Satan is no longer Satan in the values of the exporters of revolutions, because their true objectives have become clear and were confirmed to everyone when they tried to carry out the plot to complete the U.S. aggression against Iraq by sending their agents to conduct riots, destruction, and killings in a number of Iraq's cities.

Concluding, AL-JUMHURIYAH says: Time has proven the soundness of the awareness of the Iraqis who exposed the Iranian thinking before it was exposed to world public opinion many years ago. The Iranian rulers revealed the falsehood of their own slogans when they agreed to implement the U.S.-Zionist policy and exploit the U.S. aggression against Iraq to implement their cruel objectives.

U.S. Air Activity Over North Protested

JN2206170591 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 22 Jun 91

[Text] U.S. aircraft have violated Iraqi airspace again for surveillance and provocation purposes.

In a memorandum sent today to the UN secretary general, Iraq's permanent representative to the United Nations said U.S. air activity over Iraqi airspace on 20 June consisted of three sorties, divided into one formation of two aircraft and one single aircraft sortie at speeds of 700-900 km per hour and at low and medium altitudes.

He also said the flights centered over the Mosul, Irbil, and Dahuk areas.

Bush Letter to Shamir on Peace Process Published

TA2406170091 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 10 Jun 91 p A3

[Letter sent by President Bush to Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir; date not given]

[Text] "I write to you at a special time. It is a special time because we can now celebrate together the rescue of Ethiopian Jewry. The ability to save Jews who live in fear and aspire to make aliyah to Israel is the fulfillment of the Zionist dream. It is the essence of the State of Israel.

"Americans are proud of having been able to help in 1985, and again now, the Falashas come to Israel. I am proud of the role my country fulfilled in convincing the USSR to permit Jews to leave for Israel. The newly approved Soviet emigration law provides legal status for what has already become a mass aliyah to Israel and makes me even more certain that the wave of aliyah of Soviet Jews to Israel will not cease.

"These developments give you a great opportunity and place before you a challenge. Just as when the state was established, Israel is now contending with the important strategic mission of immigrant absorption in large numbers.

"I believe that creating an atmosphere of peace will greatly assist in making that mission easier. In that connection, we are also now living in a special period: a period in which we might be able to start direct bilateral and multilateral negotiations between you and the Arab states and between you and the Palestinians.

"Israel has aspired to such negotiations for 43 years, and there is some connection between the rescue of Ethiopian Jewry and the exodus of Soviet Jewry, and the fact that such negotiations are perhaps now within reach.

"Although I know that making peace will involve risks for Israel, we built a process that provides answers to your concerns and needs. It is a process that includes the Arab states and the Palestinians, the Palestinians from the territories, and not the PLO.

"The process tries to bypass the issues which caused you problems in the past year; a process which squares with Camp David, which will continue in stages to assure that you will not have to cope with the issues of the final status (of the territories) at the beginning of the process; a process which will start with a conference that will not torpedo or compete with direct talks.

"I told you on the phone that I am determined to bring the Arabs to the negotiating table with you and to start talking. The United States will not be a partner to a conference that puts up obstacles or contradicts or replaces direct negotiations between the sides. Only direct negotiations can settle the differences between you.

"We have already taken the trouble to make that very clear to the Arabs and the Palestinians. Jim Baker told them that they must enter give-and-take negotiations with you; that they should not depend on a conference or hold onto anything else that might extricate them from that need or the need to compromise and reach difficult decisions for the sake of peace.

"We will say that plainly: The conference to which we are referring is not a forum for negotiations or decisionmaking; it is a forum to break the 'taboo' of a face-to-face meeting and for the sake of advancing a direct dialogue.

"I also understand your concerns about a UN presence at a conference and about additional convocations of the conference, but I do not see how a simple observer can be a problem for you, especially if he will be present only at a conference which cannot dictate its preferences.

"Furthermore, the lack of a decisionmaking role, our determination to assure that all the sides understand that a conference cannot serve as a forum for appeals, and your ability to prevent any meeting which you do not want, all these ensure that there will be no way to get out of negotiations. When all these are joined together, they meet your concern that the conference should not reconvene at some future time.

"On the issue of the United Nations and the reconvening (of the conference), we studied various alternative proposals—the "alternatives" that Jim promised to try, but without success. In this process, already based mainly on your conditions, we cannot sell anything less to your neighbors.

"King Husayn is being asked mainly to deal with the PLO, the fundamentalists, and perhaps Syria, and he needs several tokens to which he can point. Honestly, he will not need those tokens and there will be no doubt about his ability to include Palestinians in a joint delegation if he can say that there will be a freeze in settlement activity the moment negotiations start.

"I call on you to consider that. If it is impossible, then we will require something like the compromise proposal that we worked out on the United Nations issue and the right of the conference to convene more than once. In any case, your interests will be looked after, and whatever the circumstances, these limited tokens will not influence the contents of the negotiations.

"You should also know that when we get closer to reaching an opportunity to issue invitations to a conference, we expect the Soviets to agree to the approach explained here.

"It is important that we focus on the significance of this effort: direct negotiations. I believe that we are able to get these negotiations going. It would be very difficult to understand somebody who chooses not to enter into direct bilateral or multilateral negotiations because of the two problems of modalities—which are still on the table. Modalities which, as I have said, cannot influence the negotiations themselves.

"I depend on you personally, Mr. Prime Minister, to help us bridge the gaps and get the negotiations started. With a joint effort, we have a chance to start direct

negotiations and to establish real hope for a more tranquil future for the region. I cannot think of a better legacy for both of us to pass on to those who come after us."

[Signed] Yours faithfully, George Bush

Shamir—West Bank, Gaza Inseparable From Israel

TA2506090191 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 25 Jun 91 pp 1, 4

[Report by Yoram Bar and the U.S. correspondent]

[Excerpt] In a style rare even to him, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir voiced hawkish and inflexible stands yesterday when he addressed the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee. "We believe that the areas of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza are an inseparable part of Israel, and we will struggle to realize this. We want the Arab countries to acknowledge the existence of Israel, including Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza," he said. Earlier, he declared that Israel does not wish to return to the 1967 borders, as the Arabs are demanding, and explained that Israel's policy is founded on the Camp David accords, even though he was no avid supporter of them. He asked the United States to abandon its view of Security Council Resolution 242, because Israel has its own interpretation." [passage omitted]

[Tel Aviv HATZOFE in Hebrew on 25 June, in a report on page 1 by Sha'ul Schiff, the Jerusalem-based political correspondent, adds that "Shamir averred that our relations with the United States are a success story. We will pursue the dialogue with the U.S. Administration in a bid to promote the peace process without any pressure or conditions. All we want is to conduct free and direct negotiations with the Arab countries, said Shamir."]

Shamir Questions U.S. Policy Toward Syria

TA2406122991 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 24 Jun 91

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir says he is surprised that the United States is making such great efforts to bring Syria closer to the political negotiating table, but is not making a similar effort to bring Jordan to the peace talks. He claims there are substantial problems with regard to Syria's readiness to participate in the peace process, which is not the case with respect to Jordan. The prime minister also said that the United States is making no efforts to effect a real change in the Syrian Government's attitude toward the Jews.

As for Egypt, the prime minister said that it is strange that Egypt—an important component in the regional peace process—is currently deliberately downgrading economic and tourist cooperation with Israel. Our correspondent Yaron Enosh reports that the prime minister was speaking during the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee session.

Sharon Calls Settlements 'Barrier Against War'

TA2006154491 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 20 Jun 91

[Text] Minister Ari'el Sharon has said that settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza are not an obstacle to peace but a barrier against war. Our correspondent Steve Linde reports that addressing a United Jewish Appeal convention in Jerusalem, Minister Sharon said that since the Six-Day War, eight successive governments have been implementing plans to build settlements of strategic importance in the territories without uprooting local inhabitants from their land. He reiterated that less than 1 percent of the immigrants who have arrived in Israel since last year have chosen to settle in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza.

In another speech, Minister Sharon said that 322,000 immigrants, mostly from the Soviet Union, have come to Israel since the waves of immigrations began two years ago. Sharon added that 1,000 immigrants came yesterday from the Soviet Union.

Analyst—IDF Units Revealed To End Their Use

TA2406104291 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 24 Jun 91 p 9

[Article by Pinhas 'Inbari: "Canny Exposure"]

[Excerpts] The problem with the "Arab buster" [mista'arbim] units is not their official exposure on television, but the system itself. There is reason to suspect that Lieutenant General Ehud Baraq, the new chief of staff, initiated the exposure not to broaden the use of the units, but rather, on the contrary, to foment a public debate with the aim of ending their use.

It is difficult to imagine Baraq admitting his main motive in revealing the units, and we will probably be hearing explanations from him about the damage, or lack of damage, posed by the television report. For example, he may tell Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee members that publicizing the undercover activities will increase the confusion and pandemonium among the intifadah's hardcore activists. Also, the use of "smart methods" reduces the need to employ a large IDF [Israel Defense Forces] presence in the territories. This may sound good to the politicians, but it is not the real reason. These units have already been operating for two years, and the exposure will come as nothing new to the intifadah's violent activists. A widespread thinning of the IDF's presence in the territories was one of Moshe Arens' first decisions when he returned to the Defense Ministry, and this decision was one of the important factors in reducing tensions in the territories.

As for the central reason, one should note what Brigadier General D. told Qol Yisra'el yesterday: The decision to expose the unit was adopted as part of the policy of shedding secrecy and going public. He stressed that the unit was bound by strict military regulations, and its

commanders received detailed orders. In other words: This unit no longer operates in a twilight zone.

In a bid to shrug off the remnants of Rabin's legacy, Israel has recently been trying to change its policy in the territories—to wit: elections for the Hebron Chamber of Commerce; the attempt to divert the intifadah to economic channels; reducing the Army's provocative presence; ending the chases after children; and, good heavens, almost routine meetings with "PLO supporters" to formulate understandings on many diverse issues, such as the effort to rehabilitate the educational system, and in order to maintain indirect cooperation in the joint struggle against the masked men. [sentence as received]

It is doubtful that Arens would stand up on the Knesset podium and assert that he has "deported more people, and demolished more houses" than Rabin. The phenomenon of masked men, as well as the Arab busters activity, are symptoms of an unnatural situation, of a state of anarchy. Israel lost control after it ceased functioning as a ruling government and projecting authority, and started behaving like an arbitrary militia.

Whether purposely or not, the airing of the television report strengthened the Unified National Command of the Uprising's position in the inter-Palestinian dispute, and made Israelis aware of the need to hold a debate on the whole method. One of the arguments repeatedly made by members of the Unified National Command of the Uprising when speaking out against the phenomenon of masked men is exactly the one we saw on television: that Israel is using the masked men to infiltrate into the very heart of the intifadah.

Baraq has already scored one achievement: The television item will document for future use just how Baraq operated within this very controversial framework—while exercising great caution not to overstep the boundaries.

When a REUTER correspondent reported on the activity of these units approximately two years ago, he also published their names: Duvdevanim and Shimsonim. The television report used a different name: the Arab busters. This is not just a semantic difference but a matter of essence: the "Arab busters" are Baraq's brainchild. The "Duvdevanim and Shimsonim" were Rabin's baby, and the accounts we have of some of these units' past actions are a far cry from what we saw on television. For instance, there are stories in Nabulus of ambulances being impounded and used to disperse rioters, and the routine confiscation of "local" vehicles at roadblocks for the use of disguised IDF [Israel Defense Forces] units. There was a very disconcerting aspect to the Rabin-like nature of these units.

Why all this deviousness? Baraq could simply have ordered a halt to these units' activity. Apparently, something Baraq knows about these units' past obligates him to draw a line between himself and the past. Therefore, it is no coincidence that Rabin was among the first to criticize the exposure on television. Baraq wants to be able to end this method, but all the publicity shows that he does not want to do this at once, because the units have proven effective against the masked men. When the campaign against the masked men (while strictly adhering to military regulations) is deemed successful, the undercover units will be disbanded. [passage omitted]

It may yet transpire that the chief of staff's instigation of the television report was a complex and sophisticated move. Its goal, which was to shake the territories out of their present state of anomaly and into a more organized pattern of authority, which could open channels of communication with "PLO supporters" who are also interested in moving the intifadah to a nonviolent, economic plane. The settlers, of course, will be opposed to this, and therefore there was a need to show that the "quelling of the intifadah" was continuing, and even at a more efficient pace.

In the final analysis, one should remember that Arens selected Baraq as chief of staff from the very beginning, and not other candidates who were closer to the Likud. Arens did this, among other reasons, to avoid getting into trouble and overstepping accepted boundaries under the pressure of the "intifadah squashers" who sit by his side at the Cabinet table. He knew that Rabin had barely managed to emerge unscathed from the trials of soldiers held during the intifadah's early days, and one of Baraq's most important jobs is making sure not to get Arens—and himself—into similar legal messes.

Baraq Defends Disclosure of Special Army Units

TA2506105391 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1000 GMT 25 Jun 91

[Excerpt] Army chief of staff, Lieutenant General Ehud Baraq, says he takes full responsibility for the decision to air last week's television report on special Army units that includes soldiers disguised as Arabs. In a special session of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, the chief of staff defended the move. At the end of the meeting, one of the critics, committee chairman Eliyahu Ben-Elisar, said the matter is now closed. David Ze'ev reports:

Making clear that he alone is responsible for such a decision, the Army chief of staff, Gen. Ehud Baraq, reviewed the process that led up to the report. Six weeks before last Friday's airing, he was approached by his assistant, Brigadier General D., with the idea of contacting Israel Television to do the report. The chief of staff said he accepted the idea on condition that the work be conducted under military guidance.

Gen. Baraq said he approved disclosing the identity of such units for three reasons: to deter those Arabs who had not yet joined terror cells from doing so; to relay a message to the Arab population of the territories that the Army's activities are aimed against those who are the hard-core activists and not the general populace; and to cause confusion among the population of who is your friend and who is not. In fact, the chief of staff warned Jewish residents of the territories against using live

ammunition unless their lives are really in danger, because they could find themselves shooting at Israeli soldiers disguised as Arabs.

But, Gen. Baraq said, another factor was to instill pride in Israelis—not only the civilian population, but also the youths who are enlisted in the Army; to show the kind of skilled activities that the Army conduct, as opposed to negative feelings normally attributed with service in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza; and to encourage the youth to volunteer to serve in such special units. [passage omitted]

More Special IDF Units To Work in Territories

TA2106151891 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 21 Jun 91

[Text] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] have increased the use of special units carrying out undercover activities in the territories. This was reported by our army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe. In the wake of the units' successful activities, the Army has decided to increase the volume of their operation, at the same time diversifying their methods.

Official Army sources said that the special units jointly carry out undercover activities in the territories with the Shin Bet. Their activities have resulted in the apprehension of hundreds of people suspected of attacking local residents, Army troops, and Israeli civilians, and in the prevention of many terrorist attacks.

Zulu King Goodwill Zwelithini Arrives for Visit

MB2406133791 Johannesburg SABC TV 1 Network in Afrikaans 0530 GMT 24 Jun 91

[Text] Zulu King Goodwill Zwelithini KaBhekuzulu has arrived in Israel for a five-day visit.

Yesterday he met Israel's Foreign Minister David Levi, and he is also scheduled to hold talks with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and President Hayim Herzog.

The Zulu king's visit has coincided with an announcement that State President F.W. de Klerk is to visit Israel soon.

The Israeli Cabinet yesterday decided to lift almost all the sanctions against South Africa.

Urges Support for De Klerk

TA2406100391 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 24 Jun 91 p 1

[Report by Dan Izenberg]

[Text] The king of the South African Zulus, Goodwill Zwelithini kaBhekuzulu yesterday said international sanctions against South Africa had primarily harmed the poor strata of society which had already been suffering from apartheid.

KaBhekuzulu, on a visit to Israel, called on the international community to help the South African government and its president, F.W. de Klerk.

Foreign Minister David Levi promised him that Israel would extend agricultural, technological and scientific aid to the Zulus.

Afrikaans Paper Reports Lifting of Sanctions

MB2406063691 Umtata Capital Radio in English 0600 GMT 24 Jun 91

[Text] Israel has lifted sanctions. An Afrikaans morning newspaper has quoted a spokesman for President F.W. de Klerk as saying the Israeli Cabinet has lifted most of the sanctions imposed on South Africa in 1987.

The spokesman says the Israelis have also agreed to a visit by De Klerk but have set no date.

Israel imposed arms, cultural, economic, and sports sanctions against South Africa. It's still not clear which are still in place and which have been lifted.

Sanctions on South Africa Not To Be Lifted

TA2406185691 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 24 Jun 91

[Text] Israel will not cancel sanctions on South Africa at this stage. The restrictions will be lifted only after the United States abrogates its sanctions, our political correspondent Gadi Sukenik has learned.

The issue of canceling sanctions on South Africa was raised at the Cabinet meeting by Industry and Trade Minister Moshe Nisim. He said that the steps taken by the Pretoria Government and the gradual abolition of racial separation permits Israel to end the sanctions, for the sake of both countries.

New Palestinian Party Issues Leaflet

TA2006195891 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1930 GMT 20 Jun 91

[Text] The Unified Palestinian National Party, whose existence has only been publicized recently, has issued a new leaflet in which it emphasizes that it is not affiliated with any entity, including the PLO or Jordan. Our correspondent in the territories Udi Segal reports that the leaflet notes that because of its yearning for the unity of the Arab nation, the party calls for resuming ties with the inhabitants of the territories, congratulates the warriors of the intifadah, and reaffirms its goal, which is the establishment of a Palestinian state in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza.

Member of New Party Interviewed

TA2106184991 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic 1630 GMT 21 Jun 91

[Interview with Kamil Mahmud Tawanjah, member of Palestinian National Unity Party, by Yoni Ben-Menahem; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Tawanjah] My name is Kamil Mahmud Tawanjah, from a village near Ramallah. I was a security detainee and I was released during the prisoner exchange deal in 1985. I was detained twice in 1987. Now I am affiliated with the Palestinian National Unity Party [Hizb al-Ittihad al-Watani al-Falastini] as a member and supporter of this party.

[Ben-Menahem] Who are the members of this party?

[Tawanjah] As you know, I am a released prisoner who is a member of this party. I am not the only one in this party. There are brothers, comrades, strugglers, security detainees, and intellectuals who are members of this newly established party—the party of peace, of national independence, the Palestinian National Party, which advocates freedom and peace through civilized means, not through any other means.

[Ben-Menahem] Why did you decide to emerge on the political arena under the present circumstances?

[Tawanjah] The Unity Party was launched out of our total conviction that the Palestinian people believe in democracy. As you know, the Unity Party is based on justice, peace, and freedom.

[Ben-Menahem] Does the emergence of this party have any connection to the reassessment of the intifadah?

[Tawanjah] We in the Palestinian National Unity Party definitely support the positive aspects of the intifadah. We are for the intifadah, but not in its negative status which we are witnessing today. We reject any act of murder in the name of the intifadah. As you are aware, negative phenomena usually emerge in the intifadah or in any popular revolution. For our part, as Palestinians we must eliminate these phenomena so they will not grow and consequently have an adverse effect on the intifadah's continuity.

[Ben-Menahem] Do you have any connection with Jordan?

[Tawanjah] Of course not. We have no connection at all with Jordan, but as you are aware the Palestinian state was established on the basis of Resolution 181—the same criterion on which Israel was founded. Proceeding from this notion, the Palestinian state united with Jordan. This was a popular demand at that time. God willing, we will unite with Jordan after the establishment of the Palestinian state over all the occupied Arab lands. This has been approved by international legitimacy through Resolution 181, signed by the United States and the Soviet Union.

[Ben-Menahem] What is the difference between you and the PLO?

[Tawanjah] We have no conflict with the brothers in the PLO, and there is no difference between us over the goals, but as you know the means and endeavors differ. We will wage a peaceful and civilized struggle with the aim of achieving the goals of the Palestinian people, and we will reach the shores of peace and freedom with the Palestinian people.

[Ben-Menahem] What will be your political activity in the coming months?

[Tawanjah] It will, naturally, concentrate on peace. As you are aware, our peace march is difficult. We realize that some parties may have an interest in undermining the National Unity Party. Despite this, we will continue with God's succor and will adhere to the Palestinian national principles, because they are the basis of our party.

Aims of New Party Analyzed

TA2106151291 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic 20 Jun 91 pp 1, 11

["News Analysis" by AL-FAJR journalist Nabhan Khurayshah: "The New Party—A Means To Arouse Confusion Among Palestinians"]

[Text] The Israeli news media recently carried a report on the formation of a local Palestinian "party" called the Palestinian Unity Party [Hizb al-Ittihad al-Falastini], and cast a shroud of secrecy over the persons who are behind this "party," its program, and its position on the current issues.

The announcement on the establishment of this "party" coincided with the interaction of three basic factors in our region:

1. The political moves witnessed in our region for achieving a "settlement" of the Arab-Israeli conflict. After four shuttle trips by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, it has become clear that the Israeli Government constitutes the main obstacle even to the "American peace," in which U.S.-Israeli interests predominate Arab interests and causes.

Since the current debate over peace is stuck on two points—the international peace conference and Palestinian representation—observers believe that the announcement on the establishment of a new "party" is no more than an attempt to arouse doubts over the soleness of the PLO's representation of the Palestinian people and, consequently, hinder the convocation of the conference by the appearance of the so-called "Palestinian Unity Party," which challenges the PLO and competes with it over Palestinian representation.

2. The announcement on the establishment of this "party" coincides with scores of articles, commentaries, and editorials published by the Israeli press on what they call "the end of the intifadah and its erosion," like the headline in an article by YEDI'OT AHARONOT correspondent Roni Shaqed: "They Have Tired of the Intifadah."

The objective is all too clear. There is a very organized campaign that aims to separate the core from the masses

and seeks to trigger them from within after exhausting all the previous means for confronting the intifadah.

3. The announcement on the birth of this "party" coincides with the internal debate going on at present over the intifadah and the need to cleanse it from flaws and push it forward. The contrasting view says that the intifadah has no flaws at all and, consequently, one should rally around and hang on to it as a strategic Palestinian card.

To put it bluntly and directly, it can be said that the shroud of secrecy and the news blackout imposed on those behind this "party" is liable to cause confusion and doubt among Palestinians. For example, a person may accuse another of being affiliated with this "party" just because they hold different views over the intifadah and its means, or even over Soviet perestroyka, or ways of settling the Arab-Israeli conflict. This may go so far as to cause the husband to accuse his wife, or vice versa, of being affiliated with this "party" when a family quarrel breaks out!

Palestinian political observers believe that the so-called "Unity Party" is no more than a bubble (even if such a party were to exist) that aims to render marginal the PLO's political moves by hinting that a substitute exists for the PLO. It also seeks to turn the Palestinian internal debate over basic issues to Israel's advantage, divert the debate from its correct framework toward despair and frustration, and convey the message that Israeli officials have been repeating over the last 34 months: "The Palestinians will never achieve anything through violence!"

Knowledge of Planned Prisoner Swap Denied

TA2506044591 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 25 Jun 91

[Text] The International Red Cross in Geneva reportedly was asked last week to prepare for an exchange of Israeli and Western hostages. The Jewish Telegraphic Agency says those involved in the planned operation include negotiators from Israel, Iran, the United States, and the Soviet Union, but the agency says when the news of the deal was leaked to the media, a decision was taken to postpone it. It says the exchange is likely to take place in Geneva at the appropriate time.

Israeli security sources told Qol Yisra'el that Israel is not currently involved in contacts on a prisoner exchange, and they denied knowledge of the reported operation.

Pazner Denies Nuclear Devices on Golan Heights

TA2406105091 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1000 GMT 24 Jun 91

[Text] The prime minister's media adviser, Avi Pazner, today dismissed reports that Israel has placed remote-control nuclear devices in the Golan Heights. Pazner called the claim a pack of nonsense.

The report on the supposed nuclear devices in the Golan Heights are included in a forthcoming book on U.S.-Israel ties, selections of which have appeared in TIME magazine.

Syria Criticized for Carrying Extremism 'Too Far'

JN2406152991 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1335 GMT 24 Jun 91

["Observation" by 'Ezra Shirazi]

[Text] It is regrettable—even tragic—that over the past few months, the rulers of Damascus and their media should have been playing discordant tunes in relation to peacemaking efforts in our region. Specifically, the Syrians level charges of intransigence against Israel and urge the United States to apply pressure and the United Nations to pass economic and political sanctions against Israel. In the meantime, the rulers of Damascus and their media shift the blame for stalled peace efforts alternately onto the Israelis and the Americans.

Observers may be hard pressed to know for sure if the rulers of Damascus are aware of the impression they have created by their game. In any case, their game will hardly lend any credibility to the Syrian regime. Nor will it hide the fact that they are carrying their extremism too far and taking increasingly inflexible positions toward the current efforts and initiatives to work out the Arab-Israeli dispute. Some detached observers now argue that with the kind of extreme and intransigent line pursued by the Damascus rulers, peace with a Syria run by al-Asad will remain elusive. Other observers go so far as to say that the rulers of Damascus have a vested interest in a state of no war and no peace. Reason: The Syrian rulers' Ba'thist regime would thus be ideally suited to siphon off cash from rich Arab countries for the self-styled frontline states and the steadfast confrontation front.

Let us get this straight, though: We are not in the business of pointing fingers, since mudslinging among the parties to the peacemaking effort in the Middle East will serve no useful purpose. First, however, it may be useful to observe that peace in our region is not a ping-pong ball to be tossed about at will by this or that leader. Peace is such a historic, weighty responsibility that the rulers of the region should not be cavalier about it; at stake is the well-being of all the peoples of the region. Second, peace efforts in the region may founder here and there, but will nevertheless continue.

All indications are that the U.S. Administration is determined to keep its peace initiative going. In the meantime, the parties to the dispute will remain under a severe test. Inevitably—sooner or later—things should be clear and real intentions known.

'Unidentified' Forces Attack UNIFIL Position

NC2406161791 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 24 Jun 91

[Text] Security sources in al-'Urqub have reported that unidentified gunmen attacked the UN Interim Force in Lebanon [UNIFIL] position in Rashayya al-Fukhkhar with machine guns and hand grenades at dawn today. The UN forces used flares and spotlights to illuminate the area and deployed vehicle and foot patrols to search for the attackers.

An AFP report said a hand grenade was thrown at the Norwegian forces but did not cause any casualties.

Pro-Israeli Group in South Wants UN Out

NC2406194991 Paris AFP in English 1924 GMT 24 Jun 91

[Text] Tyre, Lebanon, June 24 (AFP)—Local residents have called for U.N. troops to be "chased out" of south Lebanon, a pro-Israeli radio reported Monday, shortly after a grenade attack on Norwegian peacekeepers.

Voice of the South said the Israeli-appointed "local committees" wanted the ouster of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) from a border strip controlled jointly by Israeli-backed militiamen and Israeli troops.

"UNIFIL must be chased out because it is a source of problems and it disturbs the peace," the radio quoted the committees as saying. They singled out the Norwegian contingent for criticism.

Israel formed the committees two years ago to serve as an intermediary between residents of the Israeli-declared "security zone" in south Lebanon and the Israeli military.

The radio gave no details on when or where the committees met to issue their call, which came hours after a hand grenade was hurled at a Norwegian position of UNIFIL, causing no casualties.

The device exploded against a building housing four Norwegian U.N. troops in the Rashayya al-Fukhkhar district near Tyre, causing slight damage, a U.N. spokesman said.

All Norwegian troops in UNIFIL are positioned inside the security zone.

Some 5,800 blue-helmeted troops from Finland, Ghana, Fiji, Ireland, Nepal, Norway and Sweden contribute to the force, which was set up in 1978 to monitor the international border between Israel and Lebanon.

The friction in the security zone comes ahead of the Lebanese Army's plan to reinforce its presence in south Lebanon from July 1.

PLO Asks Factions in Sidon To Hold Positions

NC2506061491 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 25 Jun 91

[Text] The newspaper AL-NAHAR reports today that the Palestinian factions in Sidon have received instructions from Tunis to remain in their current military positions. They have also been instructed not to hand over any positions or weapons, especially in eastern Sidon and some southern areas, before an agreement is reached between the Lebanese state and the PLO on all matters and details relating to the future of the Palestinian political and military presence in Lebanon.

Minister Dallul Views Palestinian Contacts

NC1806054791 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0315 GMT 18 Jun 91

[Text] After meeting with President Ilyas al-Hirawi yesterday, Minister Muhsin Dallul said that negotiations with the Palestinian leadership in Sidon will be useless unless consultations are simultaneously held with the leadership in Tunis.

He was quoted as saying that the committee which the Cabinet tasked with contacting the concerned parties in Sidon should be expanded to include, in addition to himself and Major General Nabih Farhat, state security director general, a complete ministerial-military apparatus to implement the committee's task and ensure its success.

Mediator Expects No 'Showdown' With Palestinians

NC2006194291 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1900 GMT 20 Jun 91

[Text] Muhsin Ibrahim [Lebanese mediator and leader of the Lebanese Communist Action Organization] has stated that he does not expect a Palestinian-Lebanese showdown. In a statement to AFP following the conclusion of his talks with Palestinian leaders in Tunis, Ibrahim said that there are several possibilities for dealing with issues related to the presence of armed Palestinian fighters in Lebanon.

Ibrahim said he believes that the PLO maintains a positive attitude toward the Lebanese Government's decision to impose its authority over all Lebanese territory.

'Rehabilitation' of Militiamen Reported

NC2106074191 Paris AFP in English 0653 GMT 21 Jun 91

[Report by Yasmine Dakik]

[Excerpt] Beirut, June 21 (AFP)—Lebanon is to send 6,000 ex-militiamen to rehabilitation centers before admitting them to the Army or police, as it demobilizes the armed groups who defied the government for 16 years.

The 6,000 militants—Christians, along with Shiite, Sunni and Druze Moslems—are entering three centers, where they will spend three to six months in rigorous theoretical and physical training.

As part of a campaign to reassert its authority, the state has committed itself to the reintegration of 20,000 militiamen, divided equally between Christians and Moslems.

Samir Ja'ja', leader of the most powerful militia, the Christian Lebanese Forces (LF), recently called on 2,000 of his followers to set "a good example of patriotism" and wished them luck as future public servants.

The head of the Progressive Socialist Party (PSP), Walid Jumblatt, also addressed 1,000 of his followers in the Druze Shouf mountains. "Your integration in the Army is a triumph over reactionary groups in power," he said.

The first stage of the program will integrate 4,000 militiamen into the Army and 2,000 into the internal security forces.

"At the moment we can't absorb more than 6,000. The remaining 14,000 will work in civil administration and municipal security, but we will deal with them later," Interior Minister Sami al-Khatib told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE.

The militias, particularly the LF, are reported to have accused the government of having absorbed far smaller numbers than they had requested: 18,000 for the LF, 6,000 for the PSP, and several thousand for the Shiite Amal movement.

The figures include combatants and civilians working in militia administrations that have slowly come under state control in accordance with an overall peace plan for Lebanon approved by parliament in 1989.

A further source of friction lies in the fact that the government does not accord militia officers the same rank they held as irregulars. Many officers were trained abroad, for example the LF in Israel and the PSP in Syria or the Soviet Union. [passage omitted]

Buwayz Returns From Kuwait, Comments

NC1906172791 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1545 GMT 19 Jun 91

[Text] Following his return from Kuwait to Beirut this afternoon, Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz noted that Kuwaiti officials had explained Kuwait's views on the region's problems during his talks there. He added: We also discussed Lebanese-Kuwaiti ties, the participation of Lebanese firms in Kuwait's reconstruction, travel by Lebanese nationals to Kuwait, and the resumption of activities at the Kuwaiti Embassy in Beirut. He pointed out that the Kuwaiti officials expressed their support for Lebanon in all fields, but said they had some reservations over the return of foreigners, and even of Kuwaiti nationals, in view of the current difficult living conditions.

Buwayz gave Kuwaiti Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah a message from President al-Hirawi on the Lebanese situation when they met earlier in the day. The Kuwaiti ruler welcomed the return of the Lebanese nationals who had helped build Kuwait. He expressed his appreciation for Lebanon's stand in support of Kuwait during the Iraqi invasion.

Buwayz on Need To Implement Resolution 425

JN1906160791 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1245 GMT 19 Jun 91

[Text] Doha, 19 Jun (WAKH)—Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz has emphasized his country's commitment to the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 425 on Israeli withdrawal from southern Lebanon.

In statements to the Qatari paper AL-RAYAH published today, Buwayz explained that Israel is delaying withdrawal from southern Lebanon in an attempt to exploit the south as a means of pressure during the peace efforts in the Middle East.

Referring to his recent talks with his U.S. counterpart James Baker, he said the talks addressed the means to implement Resolution 425, and that the U.S. secretary stressed that his country had been raising the issue seriously, especially after the Lebanese state made great accomplishments in national reconciliation.

The Lebanese minister said his country had emphasized that the implementation of this resolution would be the opening for peace in the region, and would give credibility to any international conference and to the U.S. role in the peace efforts.

Faris Buwayz said that Lebanon, which was beginning to regain its regional and international role, was proceeding rapidly toward securing a just, free, and independent state after seeing for the first time in long years of bloodshed the establishment of greater Beirut free of weapons, the dissolving of the militias, the handover of their weapons, and the incorporation of their members in the regular Army.

Buwayz on Riyadh Talks, Army Deployment, Syria

PM2106111891 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 21 Jun 91 p 19

[Interview with Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz by unidentified AL-HAWADITH reporter in Riyadh; date not given"]

[Excerpts] [AL-HAWADITH] What were the topics of your talks with [Saudi Foreign Minister] Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal?

[Buwayz] First, I emphasize that the talks were very successful and positive. Lebanon has been accustomed to such attention from Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, who understands Lebanon's issues well and who was the architect of Saudi diplomacy at the al-Ta'if meetings, which were crowned with success and which put Lebabon on the right road to sovereignty and legitimacy.

Our Riyadh meeting dealt with a number of subjects; most important, Lebanon's international and regional position and bilateral relations between the two countries, including facilitating the entry of Lebanese goods and the regulations governing enterprises permitted to export to the Kingdom, as well as matters concerning Middle East Airlines with regard to flights to Riyadh. Facilitating Lebanese businessmen's entry into the Kingdom was also discussed.

We also discussed reopening the Saudi Embassy in Lebanon and the Lebanese state's willingness to provide all administrative and security facilities for the embassy.

[AL-HAWADITH] What about the international fund for rebuilding Lebanon?

[Buwayz] I discussed this with Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, and he voiced the Kingdom's willingness—at the instructions of the custodian of the two holy mosques—to work to support and establish such a fund. There is Arab and Gulf response in this regard. [passage omitted]

[AL-HAWADITH] What about present conditions in Lebanon?

[Buwayz] Present conditions in Lebanon are good news for all Lebanese and Arabs. Following the formation of the present government, a plan has been drawn up to restore the state's authority to all Lebanese territory. This plan started with what is known as "greater Beirut"—that is, the Lebanese Army's deployment in so-called "greater Beirut" as far as the al-Madfun bridge in Muhafazat al-Shamal and also to the south as far as al-Jabal—as a prelude to achieving the second aim: the Lebanese Army's deployment throughout Lebanese territory from the far north to the far south. This, especially since there is a hope which we are all doing our utmost to achieve; namely, the implementation of Security Council Resolution 425 calling for the withdrawal of Israel and its militias from the border or the so-called security belt, which Israel established along our border with occupied Palestine. Thus the Lebanese state's authority is growing stronger by the day, and, thank God, the Lebanese Army is now in control of the situation.

[AL-HAWADITH] Some people criticize the brotherhood and coordination treaty with Syria, which they regard as Syrian tutelage over Lebanon. What comment would you make?

[Buwayz] Lebanon and Syria are two fraternal countries. In fact, they are twins. If you look at the map, you will see that Lebanon surrounds Syria on all sides apart from a small part in the South, where it has its borders with occupied Palestine, and the coastline from Tripoli in the North to al-Naqurah in the south. So you can see that the two countries have always had long common borders throughout history. There is large-scale economic and human exchange between them. This, in addition to the common language and culture, as well as historical and geographic links. So there must be a special relationship like the brotherhood, cooperation, and coordination treaty whose documents were exchanged recently after signing by Presidents al-Hirawi and al-Asad.

Undoubtedly Syrian officials, led by President Hafiz al-Asad, and Lebanese officials, led by President al-Hirawi, realize that the two countries are free, independent, and sovereign and that it is in both countries' interests to have total agreement between their political lines.

We can see that the world is in the process of forming economic and regional blocs in order to confront the challenges of the age. This is why Lebanon and Syria had to draw up a formula for their relations within the context of each country's sovereignty and independence. That is what happened with regard to the brotherhood treaty with Syria.

[AL-HAWADITH] Do you believe that the clauses of the al-Ta'if agreement have been implemented?

[Buwayz] It is still being implemented. This is because 16 years of infighting have left many bad effects and conditions that we must work to eliminate, in accordance with the Lebanese system, in order to satisfy all. Generally, great strides have been made in implementing the agreement's clauses, especially with regard to political reforms and extension of sovereignty and authority. We are now in the final stage of the the Lebanese Army's deployment scheduled for 30 September. Then the Syrian forces wil be gathered in al-Biqa' in accordance with the al-Ta'if agreement, and these forces' size, role, and tasks will be agreed between the Lebanese and Syrian Governments.

We are working to develop the political structure and the political system in Lebanon to prevent the occurrence of any problems, obstacles, or bad conditions.

Syrian Forces Evacuate Shikka Tunnel

NC2506064091 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 25 Jun 91

[Text] Our correspondent reports that the Syrian forces have evacuated the southern portion of the Shikka tunnel, which leads to Tripoli from al-Batrun. For the past 2 years the Syrian forces have used the tunnel as an ammunition depot and a camp. The al-Batrun-Tripoli road across the tunnel is now open for traffic in both directions.

The Syrian forces have also cleared their roadblock at the entrance to the tunnel. They have reduced their personnel manning the roadblock at the coastal town of Kafr 'Ubayda. This roadblock is 5 km from the al-Madfun bridge roadblock, which the Syrian forces evacuated about a month ago.

Dallul Briefs Syrian Officials on Contacts

NC2006172291 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 20 Jun 91

[Text] Agriculture Minister Muhsin Dallul is shuttling between Sidon, Damascus, and Beirut. He returned this

afternoon from the Syrian capital, where he had held talks with Syrian officials, foremost among whom was Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam, to discuss the results of his contacts with Palestinian leaders in Sidon yetersay. He had briefed Defense Minister Michel al-Murr on the same subject prior to his departure for Damascus.

Defense Minister Returns From Damascus

NC2506054191 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 25 Jun 91

[Text] Defense Minister Michel al-Murr visited the Syrian capital yesterday. He returned to Beirut last night after meeting Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam and Chief of Staff General Hikmat al-Shihabi.

Al-Murr is scheduled to chair a meeting of the military council today to discuss details of the army deployment plan before submitting it to the next Cabinet session.

Ninth Brigade Reportedly Rejects Commander

NC2006135991 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0900 GMT 20 Jun 91

[Text] Sources familiar with the preparations for the Army deployment in Sidon told our radio today that the reports that the 9th Brigade will be deployed are true. They rejected Colonel Wahbah Qatisha as its commander, however, and said that a military man known for his nationalism and neutrality would be a better choice for this position.

'Prominent' Leader Says No Progress on Hostages

NC2506105591 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 25 Jun 91

[Text] REUTER today cited a pro-Iranian prominent Lebanese leader as saying that efforts to secure the release of 13 Westerners held in Lebanon have ceased because neither Washington nor Tehran were ready to make concessions.

The leader, who declined to be named, told REUTER that there is no progress, not even 1 percent, in the hostage issue. He added that the dilemma of the hostages is directly linked to international politics and relations between Iran and the West. He pointed out that the Iranians are not willing to establish relations with the United States at any price, nor are they willing to make any concessions to the United States.

Hizballah's Husayn Musawi on U.S., Israel

PM1806115491 Stockholm DAGENS NYHETER in Swedish 14 Jun 91 p15

[Report on interview with Hizballah leader Husayn Musawi by Mats Lundegard in Ba'labakk; date not given]

[Excerpts] Ba'labakk—He was wearing a light, flowing caftan and a small crocheted white hat on his head. He spoke about the hateful U.S. role in the Middle East and the imminent destruction of Israel, "God willing," and about the 12 Europeans and Americans being held hostage either here or in Beirut.

Husayn Musawi is one of the prominent figures in Hizballah, the Iranian-backed militant "party of God" in Lebanon, which the United States views above all as a terrorist organization. [passage omitted]

Husayn Musawi speaks English but nevertheless used an interpreter. He listened alertly and seemed to be weighing his words before answering. He smiled once or twice during the interview—a brief lightening of his ascetic features.

He spoke of the United States, the eternal hate object of the radicals and the militants in the Arab world:

"People are talking about a new world order," he said. "For us it is the old order. Our peoples have been deprived of their right of self-determination, and Americans and Israelis have set about trying to determine the course of history in the region."

He is in no doubt about the conspiracy. Israel's goal is to rule all the land between the Mediterranean and the great rivers in Mesopotamia (Iraq). And the United States is the Jewish state's constant and loyal servant:

"As long as the Israelis are in Palestine and covet Lebanon's water, we cannot say that there is peace," he said. "As long as the United States is occupying Arab land in the Persian Gulf, there is no reconciliation."

He views the United Nations as U.S. imperialism's obedient servant in the Kuwait crisis and in the war. Like so many others, he asked what the Europeans and the Americans have done with their enthusiasm for UN resolutions. He asked rhetorically why no armies have been sent to force the Israelis to comply with the resolutions that demand that they give up Arab areas on the West Bank and in the Gaza Strip, on the Golan Heights, and in Lebanon.

"Why should we want to make agreements with the United States?" he asked. "Hizballah has nothing to gain from the Americans. We have nothing to talk to them about."

He sees the conflicts in the region reflected in Lebanon. He reminded me of the contacts which the Phalangists have had with Israel for many years and which, he believes, they still have today:

"They are shipping their arms to Haifa to stockpile them there for future use. How can we trust them?"

He has in all probability set dates for the release of hostages before. Because he knows, colleagues say. Because in a sense he is one of the captors.

So we asked him about the prospects.

And his answer was what we could have expected:

"There are hostages in every country," he said. "If the Israelis can be persuaded to release the Lebanese being held hostage in al-Khiyam, Shaykh 'Ubayd in particular, the kidnappers in Lebanon would be amenable to talks."

Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd is the Shiite leader whom the Israelis abducted from a village in southern Lebanon in summer 1989. No one doubts that he was taken to be used in a future trade. However, the Israelis are more interested in the release of their own soldiers captured in Lebanon than in the hostages in Beirut. Al-Khiyam is a notorious prison and prison camp administered by the Israeli-allied militia in southern Lebanon. It holds around 300 Lebanese, the majority Shiites—terrorists in Israel's terminology, freedom fighters in Husayn Musawi's view.

So is he ready to negotiate with Israel?

He did not give a direct answer. But a little later he gave a clear signal on this central issue. He was in no doubt. Israel will be destroyed, "insh Allah"—God willing...

"And with God's help, all we Muslim peoples will be released from the Americans' huge prison."

A restrained, cool man and at the same time an ardent figure, eternally unrelenting.

Like so many others in the conflict.

Phalangist Party's Sa'adah on Al-Ta'if

PM2106150491 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 19-25 Jun 91 p 28

[Interview with Phalangist Party leader George Sa'adah by Muwaffaq Madani Daftardar in Beirut; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Daftardar] Do you believe that the parliamentary appointments in Lebanon have secured balanced representation in accordance with the points endorsed in al-Ta'if? Does the increased number in the Chamber constitute a reactivating factor for it?

[Sa'adah] The Chamber of Deputies has never been slack. When all the other constitutional institutions became inoperative, the Chamber remained the only active institution. When the government was divided into two governments under Amin al-Jumayyil, the Chamber of Deputies assumed some of the government's powers, playing a government role. With regard to whether the Chamber will become active, I hope so, though I do not know whether increasing the number is for the purpose of reactivation or obstruction. As for the 50-50 ratio, it has been established, since the number of 108 deputies has been secured, with an increase of 9 deputies from the Islamic sect to the original number, namely, 99. [passage omitted]

[Daftardar] There is doubt that the militias have handed over all their arms to the authorities. Do you believe that the arms problem can be resolved, or that it will stop at this point?

[Sa'adah] I believe that the Council of Ministers' decision was clear in this regard. It requested nothing from the militias except to hand over the arms taken from the Lebanese Army. As for the other arms, the militias were allowed to move them wherever they wanted, including places outside the Lebanese Army's deployment areas. Some arms have been moved from Jabal Lubnan to the south and elsewhere, while other arms have been moved outside Lebanon.

I hope that the Army will be deployed in all areas without any obstacles.

[Daftardar] The Council of Ministers recently decided to dispatch the Lebanese Army to the south. However, as we know, Israel responded to that step by stepping up the raids. Do you believe that these raids could obstruct the implementation of the Council's decision?

[Sa'adah] The government has not hesitated or paused in implementing what we have agreed. The Lebanese state is entitled to deploy its Army throughout Lebanese territory. I believe that we will adhere to this right until the end.

[Daftardar] How do you explain the recent Israeli escalation in the south? And what is the U.S. position?

[Sa'adah] I believe that it is in everyone's interest to create a favorable atmosphere, because great strides have been made in the negotiations, and there is now international willingness to resolve all difficult security matters, including, first and foremost, the Middle East issue. I do not know whether it is in any party's interest to obstruct these matters.

[Daftardar] Why did you voice reservations about the Lebanese-Syrian treaty and refuse to take part, despite the fact that you were a principal negotiator in al-Ta'if?

[Sa'adah] Both in al-Ta'if, and before and after al-Ta'if, I have always been for firm and clear relations with Syria. It is natural for there to be relations between Lebanon and Syria and unnatural for the two countries not to have relations. This is in principle. With regard to my approval of the al-Ta'if agreement, I am committed to every clause in that agreement. I had some objections, not to the principle itself, but to certain phrases. I made some proposals to explain them positively, because after al-Ta'if we were confronted by a rabid campaign against whoever approved of the agreement. We said to people: Let us be patient, and when the clauses are finalized, you will discover that the interpretations given to you are erroneous. [passage omitted]

[Daftardar] Do you believe that Lebanese-Palestinian contacts will lead to the Army's deployment in the south and the withdrawal of armed forces from it?

[Sa'adah] I believe that great strides have been made in the contacts, and we have received assurances from those conducting the contacts and from some officials in the Palestinian leadership. I do not at all believe that it is in the Palestinians' interests to obstruct things in Lebanon. This is

because the Lebanese state has pledged—and it is in earnest—to extend its authority over all Lebanese territory.

[Daftardar] Will the south lie outside the framework of the general solution? And how do you see the future of the international Resolution 425?

[Sa'adah] The al-Ta'if agreement stipulated the resolution and the need to implement it. In addition, the Security Council issued a statement supporting the al-Ta'if agreement. All the major states—collectively and individually—supported the agreement.

Thus I believe that everyone will seek to help us to implement Resolution 425. [passage omitted]

Nasirite Leader on Army Deployment, Weapons

NC2206192991 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 22 Jun 91

[Telephone interview with Engineer Mustafa Sa'd, leader of the Nasirite Popular Organization, NPO, by correspondent Sa'd Ilyas on 22 June; place not given—recorded]

[Text] Eng. Mustafa Sa'd has called for deploying the Lebanese Army in all Lebanese territories and has welcomed its deployment in the south. On whether the NPO will supply a list of its members to be assimilated in state institutions, Sa'd said: We are supposed to do this as other groups have. The reasons behind the creation of the Kafr Falus front must disappear, however, so there will no longer be a problem. We are still stressing the need for a timetable [for Israel and the South Lebanese Army, SLA, to withdrawal from the Jazzin area and border strip].

Eng. Sa'd made these remarks during a telephone conversation with our correspondent Sa'd Ilyas this evening.

[Ilyas] It is being said that the Army will be deployed in two stages. In the first stage, the weapons inside the Palestinian camps will be collected and transferred to al-Biqa'.

[Sa'd] The Palestinian people have been living here on Lebanese territory—more than 350,000 Palestinian citizens in the north and the south. Is this not true? Their presence here is not voluntary, as their land was usurped and they were extradited to this country. As they see it, they therefore have civil, social, and political rights. There are also the questions of their camps's security and similar issues. One cannot come and implement the decision to deploy the Army just like that. One must first deal with all the issues so the implementation will be successful.

[Ilyas] Mr. Mustafa Sa'd, can you specify the positive results of the negotiations between you and Minister Dallul and Major General Farhat?

[Sa'd] Positive results? What positive [changes thought]. The meeting was positive. For starters, we said that the meetings will continue. We are focusing on the need for [changes thought]. A timetable that specifies the withdrawal of the Israelis and their supporters to the international border would be a satisfactory guarantee. When we have that, there will not be any problems as far as we are concerned, as the reasons behind the establishment of the Kafr Falus front—a forward resistance front—will then disappear. There will be no need for us, in our capacity as Lebanese citizens, Palestinians, or any other party, to carry weapons. The only weapons will be those of the legitimate authorities, represented by the Lebanese Army.

[Ilyas] Maj. Gen Lahd [commander of the SLA] wants the state to negotiate with him for his withdrawal from Jazzin. Yesterday, however, we heard the defense minister saying that he refuses to negotiate with Lahd and that the Army will deploy without negotiations. In your view, how will this issue be resolved?

[Sa'd] The Lebanese Government regards the SLA to be part of the Israeli Army. I did not make this assessment, the Lebanese Government did.

[Ilyas] Do you not see some difficulty here?

[Sa'd] I believe so, yes.

Al-Hirawi Receives Cable From King Husayn

NC1906135391 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 19 Jun 91

[Text] Jordan's King Husayn has responded to a cable from President Ilyas al-Hirawi. The king's cable reads: We view your achievements to date as a ray of light and source of hope in these dark and difficult days for the Arabs. We will do everything possible to support your efforts to restore peace and stability to your homeland. We support your efforts to implement the UN resolutions, particularly Resolution 425.

The Jordanian king affirmed his readiness to provide every possible assistance to the fullest extent of his country's capabilities.

Israeli Reaction to Army Deployment Viewed

JN2206152891 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 22 Jun 91

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: While four brigades of the Lebanese Army are preparing to deploy in the southern areas at the beginning of July, Israel has conducted a series of bestial attacks, shelling Sidon and its environs with heavy artillery. This has caused a violent reaction in Lebanese official circles since they see this, and rightly so, as a desperate attempt to terrorize the government and prevent it from carrying out the deployment. Undoubtedly, yesterday's attacks, and the air raids preceding them, are designed to shake Lebanese stability, which is being consolidated every day by the implementation of the national reconciliation document and the political reform plan, as well as by the determination of the Lebanese legitimate government to proceed without fear or delay to restore normality, spread the authority of the state, and bring about the end of the militias through firm cooperation with Syria.

Israel wagered on fragmenting Lebanon internally and splintering it into warring sectarian entities, which would be the begin to spread the fire to other parts of the region. With the failure of this wager, the Lebanese people's retrieval of their national unity, the return of friendship and love to their homeland, and the joining of the Syrian and Lebanese flags into one banner of sincere fraternity, the enemy leaders have no option left but to resort to direct threats and mobilizing their agent army, the South Lebanese Army, which has nothing to do with the south except its name. It is a group of mercenaries run by Israeli officers. They wear the clothes of the Israeli Army and are paid by Israel too. They have been given the dirty work, such as destroying public life in the south.

The Zionist activities against the stability and accord process in Lebanon are accompanied by parallel action to thwart international peace efforts in the region and to return them to the pre-Gulf war stage. Israel continues to crush the Palestinian intifadah, commit crimes and massacres, Judaize the occupied territories, and change their Arab character. The Zionist effort is channeled toward foiling the U.S. initiative to achieve a just and comprehensive peace based on Resolutions 242 and 338 and to prevent implementation of Resolution 425 that stipulates its withdrawal from Southern Lebanon. Israel considers all the occupied territories, whether the Golan Heights, Southern Lebanon, the West Bank, Gaza Strip, or Jerusalem as spoils of war and part of the expansion scheme that is the essence of Zionism and its Torah dream.

It is clear that the Arab struggle against Zionist expansion is unified. The Lebanese Government's decision to deploy Army troops in the south, spread the government's authority, and impose security and stability, represents an important and bold step toward retrieving the occupied part and implementing Resolution 425.

The sons of the south have responded to this national initiative, as have the Palestinian brothers. The Lebanese Government declared that Israel's attacks and threats will not affect its determination. The southern territory is Lebanese territory and its people are Lebanese. It is the duty of the state to protect them and provide them with stability and peace of mind. It is the duty of the international community also to endorse the Lebanese move so the law of the jungle does not prevail, principles and charters are not lost, and the world does not become a stage for acts and practices that harm human civilization and its developments.

Israel today stands on trial. It is the only obstacle to peace and stability in the Middle East and to accord and reconciliation in Lebanon. If Lebanon has succeeded in ridding itself of the Zionist nightmare and Israel's dark schemes and has regained its health, the Palestinian people are still the prisoners of this nightmare and there is no alternative for them but to redouble efforts and unite the Arab struggle and position to put an end to the sufferings of the Palestinian people and liberate the occupied lands.

To the extent that the Arab position cleaves together in the face of Israel and its attempts to fragment the unity and make unilateral deals, so will the Arabs control the initiative and push the international community in the right direction to achieve a just and comprehensive peace that includes Israel's withdrawal and the restoration of the Palestinian people's rights.

Syrian-Lebanese cooperation has saved Lebanon from an evil Zionist scheme. Sincere Arab cooperation could also lead to saving the occupied territories from the Judaization and dispersal plans, especially since the international community today stands face to face with its responsibilities; it has no option but to be committed to them and to implement its resolutions, whether on Lebanon or the territories occupied in 1967.

Paper on Israeli 'Secret Units' in West Bank

JN2306072791 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0330 GMT 23 Jun 91

[From the press review]

[Text] In an article entitled "The Confession," TISHRIN addresses Israel's terrorist policy against Palestinian Arab citizens.

The paper says: For the first time, Israel admits that the army is using secret units to combat the intifadah. These units work in coordination with the Israeli internal security organ, Shin Bet. They have been carrying out activities in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip over a long period of time.

TISHRIN sees that this issue reaffirms that Israel practices terrorism in an organized manner against the Palestinian citizens and their intifadah.

TISHRIN concludes: After 42-and-one-half months, the intifadah is proceeding tirelessly with no letup and no retreat. These facts are shining brightly in the face of the Israeli enemy, confusing him and forcing him to recognize the intifadah's strength and momentum.

U.S. Peace Initiative 'Racing Against Time'

JN2406152291 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 24 Jun 91

[Station commentary]

[Text] Dear listeners: Shamir got wildly excited when he heard the statement of his ambassador in Washington that Israel must choose either the continuation of the settlement process or large financial assistance and loans to absorb the Jewish immigrants. Shamir says that there is no connection between the two issues and that Israel will continue to build settlements and also get $10 billion to build settlements and settle Jews in them. Therefore, Shamir strongly reprimanded the Israeli ambassador in Washington for this slip of the tongue.

In fact, the ambassador was reflecting the prevailing views in the American capital. U.S. State Department and White House circles have hinted that the U.S. Administration will link the issue of loans to the suspension of the settlement process in the occupied territories but will not freeze the scheduled annual aid. Shamir does not believe that the U.S. Administration will go as far as that. The two sides have recently faced a similar experience. Israel got a $400 million loan in return for a promise not to build settlements in the occupied territories, but Israel did not fulfill this or any other promise and does not want to keep any future promises.

Settlement and expansion are Zionism's essential goal, and the enemy leaders believe that the policy of procrastination for only a few months will undermine the peaceful U.S. initiative, since by then the United States will be at the threshold of new presidential and legislative elections. During these elections, candidates will compete to gain Israel's support and that of the active Zionist organizations in the United States.

The U.S. initiative, which was announced by President Bush and which Secretary of State Baker failed to promote in Israel, is in a real race with time, because the Gulf war, which constituted a precedent and imposed the resolutions of international legitimacy, has created an appropriate climate for dealing with all the current hot issues in the same spirit. The Middle East problem constitutes the most prominent and dangerous issue that draws the entire world's attention. Moreover, the Middle East problem is a real test to the United States and its credibility, because any success in this area will reinforce the credibility of Washington and the international community and will pave the way for a new international order banning aggression, usurpation, and occupation. Similarly, any failure will be a disaster for Washington and the international community and will constitute a return to the law of the jungle.

Though we have no doubt about Washington's intentions toward peace, the policy of silence adopted by the U.S. Administration to achieve its promise has not yielded the desired results. This policy does not measure up to the level of a dangerous issue like the Arab-Zionist conflict, which has been raging for tens of years. UN Resolutions 242 and 338 are waiting to be implemented, but to no avail. The great force used by Washington to end Iraq's illegitimate occupation of Kuwait cannot be compared to the modest efforts being made to end Israel's illegitimate occupation of the Arab territories.

The UN Security Council passed tens of resolutions in several months, and all of them were implemented, including the economic boycott of Iraq, which is still in force. Despite Israel's violation of all the international resolutions over the past 40 years, its challenge to international legitimacy, and its neutralization of U.S. efforts, the Security Council has not yet imposed any punishment on Israel, although implementing a boycott, suspending aid, and limiting immigration would force Shamir's government to reconsider its position without the United States having to impose UN resolutions by force.

The U.S. initiative is racing against time, and any retreat from the basis of that initiative will undermine it. The UN secretary general was clear when he announced that the Middle East issue cannot be solved apart from the United Nations and its resolutions. Mobilization of the United Nations and the international community in favor of the U.S. initiative will increase the chances of its success. The world persistently demands that the United States join other efforts to exercise effective pressure to save the region from Israel's expansionist ambitions, which threaten terrible explosions and which will undermine world peace and stability.

Opportunities are limited, and peace cannot be achieved unless Israel is forced to change its intransigent position. This can be done by Washington, because it has the appropriate means and because the world supports such a resolute position.

Afghanistan

First Deputy Premier Removed From Office

LD2106170391 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 21 Jun 91

[Text] On the basis of a proposal presented by the prime minister's office and approved by the presidential office, Mahmud Barlialay has been removed from the position of first deputy prime minister.

The matter will be presented to the first session of the Wolasi Jerga for a final decision.

Resistance Leaders Fail To Agree on Settlement

BK2106121391 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 21 Jun 91 p 12

[From Murtaza Malik]

[Text] Peshawar, June 20—The representatives of the seven-party alliance of Afghan Resistance met in Peshawar on Thursday for several hours in search of an agreed formula leading to the political settlement of the 12-year-old problem but failed to reach a consensus and the parleys would be resumed after 'Id [al-Adha, 23 June].

The most hopeful sign of the day's proceeding, from the resistance point of view was the presence of the Hezb-e Eslami (Hekmatyar group's) nominee, Engineer Qutubuddin Hilal in the meeting, otherwise the HIA [Hezb-e Eslami Afghanistan] has for all practical purposes been keeping aloof from the Alliance activities for almost two years now. Those attending the deliberations besides Engineer Hilal were the representatives of Harakat-e Enqelab-e Eslami (Muhammadi Group), Mahaz-e Meli, Jamiat-e Eslami Afghanistan ('Rabbani group), Jabha-e Nejat-e Mile (Mojaddedi group), HIA (Yunis Khalis group) and Etehad-e Eslami (Sayyaf Group). The Iran-based Shiites'represented by Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami did not attend as they were still engaged in negotiating the Grand Shura issue with the other Resistance groups. There have been several contacts between the two over the last few days but insiders suggested little progress though the attitudes were not as rigid as before. The prospects they added seemed encouraging but unless a formal agreement was reached, nothing could be said with certainty. The problem with the Afghan Shiites was that they were sharply divided among themselves as well and that made the task of their agreement with other groups, difficult. Presently they were confronted with these two problems.

So far as today's meeting was concerned, the resistance groups mainly remained confined to the UN Secretary General formula on which the different components explained their point of view and also let their compatriots know the outcome of their talks held by some of them on this subject at different forums. The general consensus at the meeting according to Afghan sources was that if they could agree on one point, there was no reason why they should not find consensus on others. The one point the hawks and the doves agree to was that Dr Najib was not acceptable in any capacity. It may be added that there had reportedly been signals from Kremlin suggesting that Dr Najib could be replaced if the resistance positively and collectively responded to the move for a political settlement for which all the parties directly or indirectly involved in the problem were now keen.

The Afghan sources also said that some of the participants in the Thursday meeting had plainly told that a military solution of the problem was not possible and therefore all attempts should be directed towards a peaceful solution. However the hawks didn't agree to this approach to close all other options.

Fighting Reported Between Mujahidin, Kabul Forces

BK2106154191 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 21 Jun 91

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan speak of intense fighting between Mujahidin and the Kabul regime forces in various parts of the country. Mujahidin attacked several military installations in Qandahar and damaged them. They also launched rocket attacks on the military headquarters in (Qashla Jadid), killing 12 Kabul regime soldiers and seizing arms and ammunition.

Meanwhile, Kabul regime forces fired Scud missiles on the liberated area of Khowst.

Mujahidin Forces Recapture Khvajeh Ghar Town

BK2206082491 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 22 Jun 91

[Text] In Afghanistan, Mujahidin are reported to have recaptured Khvajeh Ghar town in northern part of the country. The reports say fighting to recapture the town began Thursday [20 June] morning and mujahidin succeeded in recapturing it yesterday. The Kabul regime troops were forced to treat to Konduz.

India

Minister on New Government's Economic Goals

BK2506113391 Hong Kong AFP in English 1089 GMT 25 Jun 91

[Text] New Delhi, June 25 (AFP)—India's new government will use its current debt crisis to embark on a program of structural change, slash bureaucratic controls and revise its hostile attitude to multinationals, a senior minister said Tuesday.

"Our objective is an efficient and internationally competative economy and whatever comes in the way has to go," Finance Minister and former Central Bank Governor Manmohan Singh told his maiden press conference here.

Citing the examples of the failed economies of the Soviet Union, Eastern Europe and China, the minister said India had no option but to set a course for an open economy because "the world won't wait for us."

Mr. Singh also said he was confident that New Delhi would find ways to repay its burgeoning 72 billion dollar foreign debt, including recourse to the International Monetary Fund (IMF), and said India would throw open its doors to foreign investment.

He hinted strongly that the government would bow to any bail-out conditions the IMF might impose to enforce long-term fiscal stability, but parried questions about details, reported to include containing the current account deficit and scrapping sick public sector industries.

The country's budget, delayed for five months because of political instability, would be presented next month he said, and it would spell out details of the proposed structural changes and belt-tightening measures.

"We'll find a way," he said when asked how the new Congress (I) government installed Friday planned to bridge the critical six months before a 1.8 to two billion dollar loan now being negotiated with the IMF came through, and a current shortfall in foreign exchange to meet short-term loan repayments.

"The world has changed, even the Soviet Union and China are clamoring to join the IMF," he said, lashing out at domestic critics including the country's leftists who are pressing the government to reject any IMF preconditions.

"The world is not going to wait... We can have an honorable settlement (with the IMF)... We can live with the (IMF) conditions... The crisis cannot be solved through emotionalism."

Mr. Singh was referring to India's massive debt, widening trade gap and balance of payment deficits, diminishing international creditworthiness and shrinking remittances from its workers in the Gulf. He also signalled that the government planned to disregard deeply entrenched taboos and strong domestic lobbies for shutting out or restricting the entry of multinational companies into the Indian economy.

"We can do business with multinationals... It is an inescapable conclusion," he said, adding that past objections to the entry of multinationals had been based on British colonial rule and were no longer valid.

"If we cut them (the multinationals) out, the world is not going to wait for us, we are the masters of our own destiny."

Dismissing his Congress (I) party's election manifesto which promised a 100-day program to usher in fiscal stability and control inflation, the finance minister said the people of India had to accept that the country was in a crisis situation.

The former bureaucrat said he estimated that if India accepted financial discipline and took tough measures to stem borrowing to finance the current account, fiscal stability should be restored within "three years."

He again declined to spell out the measures by which the new government planned to curb expenditure, other than to say it must be by structural changes in the economy.

"We have been led (by successive past governments) to take the soft way, there is no free lunch," he said, "if we don't wake up now we will find we have mortgaged the economic potential of this country."

He held out no hope for a speedy removal of the tight import curbs and other measures introduced over the past year to alieviate the foreign exchange crisis, but said he believed industry would respond in the long term.

"We are going to use this crisis to begin a process of structural change, get our fiscal system in order, get our trading system in order," he said, "and look at all existing controls that stand in the way."

"The world has changed beyond recognition, we have to wake up and take corrective measures."

India's stock markets had already plunged Monday as investors heeded warnings of belt-tightening measures the government appeared about to take, with the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) sensitivity index shedding 56.39 points.

The BSE national index dropped 18.27 points to close at 645.19 as institutional investors stayed away and selling pressure gained momentum.

Spokesman on U.S. Amendment to Military Program

BK2406130891 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 24 Jun 91

[Text] India has expressed concern over the passing of an amendment by the U.S. House of Representatives calling upon the U.S. President to insure certain conditions for Indian participants in the international military education training program.

A spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry told newsmen in New Delhi today that there is no question of the Government of India accepting any conditionality for such exchanges as these programs are intended for mutual benefit.

The spokesman said India's Armed Forces are renowned as a thoroughly trained and highly disciplined force. They need no lesson from others in compassion, morality, or application of human rights and humanitarian standards. He said the amendment cast an unwarranted slur on our Armed Forces who in the face of sustained and widespread terrorist violence and extreme provocation have been acting bravely and with utmost restraint.

UK's Major Assures Rao of 'Continuing Support'

BK2506083791 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0730 GMT 25 Jun 91

[Text] The British prime minister, Mr. John Major, has assured the prime minister, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao, of continuing support to India entitling its challenging problems particularly in the economic field. Congratulating Mr. Rao on taking over the office of prime minister, Mr. Major said in a message that Britain highly values the close ties existing between the two countries and looks forward to making them closer. He said despite our shock at the terrible tragedy India has recently experienced we never doubted in her ability to recover and derive new strength from the democratic process.

In a separate message to the former prime minister, Mr. Chandra Shekhar, the British prime minister appreciated the contribution made by him in strengthening the close and historical relations between the two countries.

Naik Replaces Pawar as Maharashtra Chief Minister

BK2506092991 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 25 Jun 91

[Text] Mr. Sudhakarrao Naik is to be the new chief minister of Maharashtra. He was unanimously elected as the leader of the Congress-I legislature party in Bombay today. Mr. Naik was earlier the revenue minister in the state. His name was proposed by the state finance minister, Mr. Ramrao Adik, and seconded by the irrigation minister, Dr. Padamsinh Patil; Cooperation Minister Mr. Shivajirao Deshmukh, and Industry Minister Mr. Vilasrao Deshmukh. Congress-I observers Mr. Janardhana Poojary, Mr. H.R. Bhardwaj, and Mr. R.L. Bhatia were present. The swearing in of the new chief minister will take place this evening. The meeting also passed a resolution congratulating the outgoing chief minister, Mr. Sharad Pawar, for his appointment as union cabinet minister.

Gandhi Case Detainee May Be LTTE Chief

BK2506031691 Hong Kong AFP in English 1823 GMT 24 Jun 91

[Text] New Delhi, June 24 (AFP)—Indian police Monday arrested a man resembling the intelligence chief of Sri Lanka's Tamil Tiger separatists suspected of masterminding Rajiv Gandhi's assassination, the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) said.

The suspect, on whose head Indian investigators placed a reward of one million rupees (50,000 U.S. dollars), was picked up by police at the Madras airport when he arrived on a flight from the southern city of Trivandrum, PTI said.

The news agency said he had been "taken away" by police for interrogation.

He reportedly resembled Sivarajan, alias Raja, the one-eyed intelligence chief of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), who was photographed at the assassination site before the former premier was killed.

The LTTE is the main suspect in the May 21 assassination of Mr. Gandhi in the town of Sriperumpudur, 50 kilometres (31 miles) from Madras, capital of India's Tamil Nadu state.

PTI said the man held at the airport had identified himself as Mahendran, an employee at a national bank in Madras.

The report came shortly after a Special Investigating Team (SIT) probing Mr. Gandhi's assassination said Mr. Sivarajan and a suspected woman accomplice, identified as Subha, were "likely" to flee for the coast.

Chief investigator D.R. Karthikeyan told the news agency in Madras that the duo were finding it increasingly difficult to stay on in the city unrecognised due to "vigilant, well-informed, and patriotic citizens."

His remarks came a day after SIT said the man and woman were still in Tamil Nadu, separated from Sri Lanka by a narrow strip of sea, and appealed to the local population to help arrest them.

Mr. Karthikeyan appealed again Monday to the people of Tamil Nadu, home to 55 million Indian Tamils, to keep vigilant to prevent the suspects from fleeing.

Mr. Gandhi, India's prime minister from 1984 to 1989, was slain by a woman suicide bomber suspected of belonging to the LTTE when he was campaigning for elections in Sriperumpudur.

In another development, a man believed to have links with the assassination was arrested by federal investigators in Madras, PTI said.

The unidentified man was in possession of a diary that contained a note which read "10:10, 21-5-91, most unfortunate," PTI said without giving substantive details.

Mr. Gandhi, who was making a bid at a political comeback when assassinated, was killed at 10:10 p.m. on May 21.

12 Persons Injured in Delhi Airport Bombing

BK2506035691 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0240 GMT 25 Jun 91

[Text] Twelve persons were injured when a bomb exploded outside the departure hall of Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport around midnight last night. The injured have been admitted to hospital and seven of them were discharged after first aid. Police said the bomb was hidden in a roadside dustbin. They described the explosion as minor.

Iran

Velayati, Hogg Discuss Hostages, Iraq in London

LD2506104591 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 25 Jun 91

[Text] Foreign Minister Velayati arrived in Lausanne, Switzerland, today, at the invitation of the World Economic Council. As guest speaker, he will deliver a speech about the Middle East crisis and the future of the region to the council session.

Mr. Velayati, who stopped over in London en route to Switzerland, after performing the hajj rituals, met and conferred with British Foreign Office Minister Douglas Hogg.

At the meeting, the two sides assessed relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Britain, important issues in the Persian Gulf region, and the Middle East. They discussed issues relating to Iraq and the fate of the Kurds in the north and the Shiites in the south of that country. They stressed the necessity of observing the rights of the people of Iraq, particularly the Kurds in the north and the Shiites in the south.

Our country's foreign minister and the British Foreign Office minister stressed the necessity for the release of all hostages, regardless of their nationalities, including foreign hostages and Lebanese nationals, within the framework of humanitarian efforts.

Mohtashami Comments on Hostages' Release

NC2406155091 Tehran JAHAN-E ESLAM in Persian 16 Jun 91 p 2 [tentative]

[Political commentary by Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Seyyed 'Ali Akbar Mohtashami, Tehran Majlis deputy: "Freedom of U.S. Hostages—Why, and to Whose Benefit?"]

[Text] The release of U.S. and Western hostages who are in the powerful hands of pure Islam's offspring comes to prominence from time to time in the news and in various political analyses, especially in the media of the arrogant powers, though it is also reflected in our domestic mass media.

The true story of the hostages does not correspond with the one that has been told by certain deceived individuals, both responsible and irresponsible, or by Western politicians, who have said that there is a difference between the American and Western arrogant regimes and their people who have been taken hostage. They have arbitrarily passed judgement on the abductors and vehemently denounced all hostage-taking as terrorism. Unwittingly, they portray the innocent and oppressed people of Lebanon as ruthless and brutal terrorists, based solely on their sketchy impressions.

From examining international events and various media reports, we see nothing but denunciation of the oppressed and support for the merciless. Islamic ideology states, however: "Be an enemy to the oppressor and a friend to the oppressed." [preceding citation in Arabic]

The enemy propaganda seeks to achieve the following:

1. To portray the tyrannized and enslaved people of Lebanon as terrorists and to condemn their demands and actions.

2. To depict the U.S. and Western spies in Lebanon as innocent hostages.

3. Using deceit and accusations, to prepare public opinion in the world of Islam, especially in Iran, for the unconditional release of the bloodthirsty American murderers from Lebanon.

4. To facilitate the world devouring United States' promises to Iran and its bargaining on bilateral relations which say that the Islamic Republic of Iran will receive innumerable and unimaginable benefits if it acts for the unconditional release of the hostages!!!!

This plan, which is only part of a larger picture, is unfolding according to the enemy's wishes. In the event it is successful and the hostages are released, the full picture will become apparent, which involves complete disarmament and even greater concessions from the Islamic Republic of Iran, as well as increased propaganda attacks on imperialism's part. The thrust of these attacks will be directed against the abductors, revolutionary Muslims, Hizballah, and the Islamic resistance in Lebanon, and extensive propaganda also will target the forces of the imam's line (the so-called radicals and hardliners) within Iran.

As part of this plan, Iran, in exchange for its greater participation in the new world order, will be asked to display goodwill by severing its links with Muslims and Islamic movements in various countries and by eliminating all revolutionaries within the country who follow the imam's line. The issue of the hostages in Lebanon is very sensitive and will continue to be discussed.

Commentary Discusses Release of Western Hostages

NC2306072991 Tehran ABRAR in Persian 12 Jun 91 p 12

[Commentary: "Why Should They Believe?"]

[Text] The new political geography of the world, especially in the strategic Middle East, is being formed and the first step along this path is the solution of the old Arab-Israeli conflict, the arena of which is Lebanon.

The Lebanese crisis took on new political dimensions at the end of its second decade. The greatest part of this change took place in al-Ta'if before the Persian Gulf war. But the hostage problem still bothers the West.

The fate of the 12 Western hostages in Lebanon today has reached sensitive levels on both sides, and the United States seeks the following:

- To gain maximum concessions for the occupying regime before any peace discussions;
- To reduce the number of countries opposing its plans before the beginning of discussions and to destroy their ability to adopt any independent position;
- To make sure Lebanon does not threaten Israel's security.

In such conditions everyone, from the British foreign secretary to the U.S. secretary of state and the occupying regime, are linking Lebanon's fate with that of the 12 Western hostages so that:

- They will destroy every type of Islamic-revolutionary unity in Lebanon; and
- They will destroy the unity of the countries involved in the fate of the Middle East.

This comes when the occupying regime is the sole actor in the scene of massacre and hostage-taking.

How can the oppressed Lebanese nation witness their people dying in the south and being tortured and imprisoned on their own territory by the occupying regime, while the fate of those whose country is not Lebanon and whose nature is obvious to the Lebanese is considered vitally important?

After World War II and the birth of Israel, the Arabic region of the Middle East actually turned into a big prison, the jailers of which even have received Nobel Peace Prizes.

The present effort of the United States and the West to involve the name of countries such as Syria and Iran in the hostage problem aims to distract regional Muslim public opinion.

The Islamic Republic of Iran always has said that if the West forces the occupying regime to release the Lebanese Muslim prisoners, it will use its moral influence among the Muslim revolutionary groups to resolve the Western hostage problem.

When Israel is threatening the region's security, who can believe peace will be established through the release of 12 Western hostages in Lebanon?

The people whose country's independence, and at least their security, is constantly threatened ask in the midst of this commotion: Who will guarantee security after the hostages are released? Who can harness the occupying regime?

Why should they believe their imprisoned children are going to be released?

It therefore is unlikely the Lebanese Muslim revolutionaries will want to discuss the Western hostages when the Zionist regime is holding hundreds of Muslims captive.

Tehran Establishes Anti-Mob Enforcement Unit

LD2506141191 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1130 GMT 25 Jun 91

[Excerpt] Special plans are to be enforced to prevent mobs of mischievous and corrupt individuals from assembling inside parks and on public thoroughfares. In a news conference in this connection, the deputy head of the security unit of greater Tehran's law enforcement zone said: The special plans passed to the law enforcement commanders of the seven regions of greater Tehran will continue to be enforced until there is a complete purge of such individuals from these places. He said: To implement these plans, regional commanders will be able to call the special revolution unit to action, when necessary. [passage omitted]

Vice President Habibi Holds News Conference

LD2406130491 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 24 Jun 91

[Excerpts] At a news conference this morning, First Vice President Habibi reported on last week's cabinet session and replied to journalists' questions about various issues:

He said that at last week's session, Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance Khatami presented a report to the Cabinet on the disavowal of infidels march in holy Mecca. Mr. Khatami described the march as a splendid one and emphasized the coordination and cooperation between the two countries [Iran and Saudi Arabia] in facilitating and easing the staging of these ceremonies.

Mr. Habibi added: Among other topics discussed was the message by the leader of the Islamic revolution addressed to the world's Muslims, and the need for executive officials to pay attention to his guidelines. [passage omitted]

Mr. Habibi said: The report by the governor of the Central Bank to the cabinet about the increased export of nonpetroleum products during the month of Farvardin this year [10 April-10 May] and its comparison with the same period last year, has shown interesting results. On the basis of this comparative figure, the export of nonpetroleum products during the month of Farvadin this year compared to the figures of last year shows an increase of 115 percent. These exports consisted of the following products: pistachio nuts, carpets, bee hives, copper, raisins, dates, and saffron, and the figures showed economic growth and success in this sector.

The first vice president said: The question of red-tape export regulations and their cancellation was reviewed and a session led by the agriculture minister is to take place to discuss the cancellation of nonessential regulations.

In this interview, Mr. Habibi referred to the government's activities concerning the reconstruction of the

earthquake-stricken regions of Gilan and Zanjan provinces. He said: The interior minister, who is the president's representative in this matter, described the government's performance in these regions at the session and, pointing to the large size of the [destroyed] region, noted that the steps taken so far have been substantial. He said that last year the government's payments amounted to 60 billion rials and it has also committed itself to 50 billion [rials] worth of expenditure on housing. In addition, it has spent 20 billion rials on agricultural loans and has allocated 90 billion rials more during the year 1370 [21 March 1991-20 March 1992], for the same purpose. He added: Measures have been taken in connection with the repair of damaged industries and the setting-up of schools and health clinics.

The energy minister has also taken steps to attend to and repair the Sefid Rud dam, making building materials available, giving housing loans to the inhabitants, and also providing them with household goods and restoring communications networks.

Mr. Habibi said that another issue on the agenda of last week's cabinet session was the transfer of some administrative and services bodies from Tehran [to the provinces] and said: It was decided at that session that the headquarters of the Iranian electronics industries should be transferred to Shiraz; the Mazra'eh [farmland] Company should be transferred to Gorgan; Shingler Elevators should be transferred to Qazvin; and the Pesis Company should be transferred to Qazvin. The matter is being attended to, of course, right now and it is sufficient for it to be endorsed before it is drawn up and issued. In the event it needs Majles approval, the bill will be presented to the Majles.

Mr. Habibi said that the session also discussed the setting up of research centers outside Tehran. It was decided that this week and next week some sites should be chosen for this purpose. [passage omitted]

Mr. Habibi continued: The government's policy with regard to determining the rate of exchange is formulated by taking into consideration its economic and social impact. It was decided to formulate a careful, precise plan so that if a single rate is to be announced, it should be in such a way that the vulnerable groups of society would not be harmed. This, of course, calls for finding exact and practical solutions. And until the necessary research and reviews no longer show technical and implementational results, the situation will remain as it is now and it will continue in this same way.

Mr. Habibi said: Of course, a number of economists do not consider the current conditions to be desirable, but the government takes note of the social as well as the economic issues.

In reply to a question on the recent remarks by Iraq's Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz about the strained relations between the two countries, the first vice president remarked that our relations with Iraq must be normalized. He said: Our opinion that it is the Iraqi people who should decide their own destiny, and that we wish to see an end to the massacre of the Iraqi people, has been considered by the Iraqi Government to be interference in the internal affairs of Iraq, while our wish is to preserve the territorial integrity of Iraq. We believe that we can negotiate with Iraq and achieve results in respect to the issues between the two countries.

On the return of the Iranian expatriates, he said: With the exception of some special cases, we cannot deprive anyone of Iranian citizenship, and anyone is allowed to return to his home. Of course, those who left the country illegally, but who were not involved in any other cases, upon their return, will be subject to investigation of their illegal exit from the country. In any case, we are currently looking into ways of facilitating their return to the country.

In reply to a question put to him by one of the reporters on relations between Iran and Egypt, and on the appointment of a charge d'affaires to Egypt, the first vice president denied press reports that a charge d'affaires to Egypt is to be appointed. He said: At present, no changes have been made in Iran-Egypt ties. The two sides have interest sections in other embassies.

On the government's support for domestic producers, Mr. Habibi said: The level of government support is subject to expediency. Continued subsidies on domestic produce is not feasible. Our policy is to protect domestic production of goods up to the point where they can compete with similar foreign commodities, ultimately finding their way into domestic and foreign markets, and free commercial zones have been set up to help this policy. He added: Our efforts are aimed at changing the monopoly state into a competitive one.

Continuing the news conference, Mr. Habibi referred to ways of transferring government-company shares to the private sector, and expounded on the method of assessing dependence and the growth of profit, in other words, the dependence of these companies on the government. He said: At present, only profits made by companies whose dependence on the government has been calculated to range between zero and 30 percent are transferrable. However, 33 percent of the transferrable shares will be made available to the staff of those companies or to civil servants, at a price below that of negotiable stocks. He added: Of course, the following stages will include companies that are dependent up to 50 percent or more, and naturally there are companies whose shares cannot be transferred since that would not be in the interest of the government. However, our policy is to attract small investments and to use them in running the country's economic apparatus.

In conclusion, Mr. Habibi referred to the government's policies on the expansion of urban and intercity transportation. He said: this sector is faced with certain problems, in view of the fact that it has not been given sufficient attention for a few years. However, the government's current policy is aimed at removing these shortcomings, but this is an issue which needs time. We hope that this problem

will be resolved by virtue of the initiatives taken to provide the required transportation facilities.

UN Official Arrives in Tehran

NC2406092191 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 24 Jun 91

[Text] Mr. Adebayo Adedeji, UN assistant secretary general and executive secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa, arrived in Tehran this morning and was welcomed by Mr. Mottaki, deputy foreign minister for international affairs.

The Economic Commission for Africa is the most important economic body on the African continent and has 52 African members.

Housing Minister Departs for Greece

LD2406091691 Tehran IRNA in English 0645 GMT 24 Jun 91

[Text] Tehran, 24 June, IRNA—Iran's minister of housing and urban development, Serajeddin Kazeruni, heading a delegation left Tehran for Athens on a four-day visit Monday morning to attend the first session of the joint Iran-Greece Economic Commission, his second visit in the past six months.

The minister and the accompanying delegation, comprising Majlis deputies, officials from the ministries of road and transportation, heavy industries, foreign affairs, and representatives of the fisheries organization and the Mosta'zafan Foundation [Foundation for the Oppressed], are also to hold talks with political and economic officials of Greece on promotion of bilateral economic and trade ties.

The Greek state-run television ET-1 Sunday night reported that Kazeruni will hold talks with Greek officials on boosting economic and trade ties between the two countries, IRNA's correspondent reported from Athens.

The joint Greek-Iranian ministerial commission will meet to discuss a series of issues including investments, joint ventures, construction, tourism, and industrial cooperation, the report added. IRNA's correspondent added that the Iranian delegation's visit to Athens is considered to be of great importance as it would put its seal on the practical path which has been prepared during several high-level meetings between the two states in the near past.

Greece and the Islamic Republic of Iran had signed an agreement of mutual understanding during Kazeruni's last visit to Greece in December 1990.

Greek Foreign Minister Antonis Samaras paid a visit to Tehran last March and laid the foundation for expansion of economic and political ties between the two ancient and friendly countries.

The issue of visa problems between Athens and Tehran is expected to find an acceptable solution during the visit of the Iranian delegation.

Meanwhile, Tehran mayor Golamhussein Karbaschi last week held two-days of talks with his Athenian counterpart, Andonis Tritsis, and other Greek officials in Athens on issues related to environment, pollution, city planning, and traffic.

A draft for a memorandum of understanding was prepared to be signed by the two mayors.

Nezhad-Hoseynian Confers With French Officials

NC2506071391 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 25 Jun 91

[Report by unidentified correspondent of the Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran from Paris—recorded, date not given]

[Text] Mr. Nezhad-Hoseynian, our country's minister for heavy industries, arrived in Paris on Monday evening at the head of a high-level politico-economic delegation at the official invitation of the French industry and foreign trade minister. He met Dominique Strauss-Kahn, the French minister for industry and foreign trade, last night.

The two ministers discussed the latest situation regarding mutual economic and commercial relations. Strauss-Kahn expressed pleasure at the increase in economic ties between the two countries in the past two years, and the scope for further expansion of these ties, facilitated by the solution of the fiscal differences between Iran and France, and said: Despite the strained political relations between the two countries a few years ago, political ties between Iran and France have now been established on the basis of reciprocal respect and understanding. While stressing France's wish to expand cooperation in various fields including heavy industries and energy, the minister added: We see an excellent future for economic ties between the two countries.

In response, Mr. Nezhad-Hoseynian referred to the present position of the economic and commercial relations between the two countries, and termed the expansion of bilateral cooperation in the technical and industrial fields as one of the ways to forge long-term relations and to extricate them from political tensions.

Later, the two ministers reviewed the situation regarding projects being carried out by France in Iran, including the Peugeot company's agreement with Iran Khodrow and the Iranian SAIPA company's agreement with Renault. The two sides expressed satisfaction at the progress in the implementation of these agreements and discussed ways and means for eliminating bottlenecks in this regard.

The French minister emphasized that France will provide technical cooperation for the two above-mentioned projects.

Last night, Mr. Nezhad-Hoseynian met the French Secretary of State for Foreign Trade, Monsieur Jean-Noel Jeanneney, and discussed bilateral commercial cooperation including the active participation of French companies in the Tehran international trade fair, which has been endorsed by the French side.

Yazdi Condemns India's Decision on 'Id Rites

LD2506085591 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 24 Jun 91

[Excerpt] A consultation session of the judicial authorities was held this morning. It was chaired by judiciary chief Yazdi.

During the session, the judiciary chief condemned the actions of certain officials of the Indian Government who prevented the holding of the 'Id al-Adha ceremonies in that country. He described the actions as contrary to the minimum principles of freedom and respect for the followers of God's religion.

He added: Considering the power of Islam and the Muslims all over the world, the Indian authorities should not underestimate the presence and influence of the Muslims of their own country and should consider their spiritual rights.

Further in his speech, speaking about publishing the names of accused persons, he said: I am not in favor of publishing the names of accused persons before the court has handed down the final verdict. After the final verdict I consider that the decision to publish the names of convicts is within the authority of the judge. [passage omitted]

Cleric Calls for Support of Government

NC2306203491 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 16 Jun 91 p 2

[Report on address by Ayatollah Azari-Qomi, member of the Assembly of Experts and staff of the Qom seminary, at the Azerbaijani mosque in Gorgan; date not given]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] In a section of his speech, Ayatollah Azari-Qomi referred to services of the government of Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani and said: We should be aware of what the Five-Year Plan is and what we will attain with its implementation. One of the members of the president's office told me that Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani comes to work at 0600 hours and works non-stop until 2400 or 0200 hours. He is a revolutionary and free person in the true sense of the word and is the trustworthy memento of the Imam. It is not fair for us to create problems for him every day, because reconstructing and rebuilding the destruction in the country is a very serious matter. We should give our full support to the government. This is a lawful and revolutionary obligation.

It may be worth reporting that, during his speech, some people shouted slogans to disrupt the majles at the behest of people outside who were armed with knives and firearms.

Reacting to this discordant behavior, the people shouted slogans of "Azari, we support you!" "Azari, the hero, may God protect you!"

The people's intervention restored calm to the mosque. The troublemakers had refused to heed requests by the public prosecutor.

One of the participants in the gathering told our reporters that the protesters are the supporters of SALAM newspaper in Gorgan. [passage omitted]

Daily Evaluates Middle East Arms Control Plan

NC2306092591 Tehran ABRAR in Persian 2 Jun 91 pp 1, 2

[Editorial: "America's Plan for Controlling the Middle East Arms Market"]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate and the merciful.

The plan proposed by the U.S. President on Middle East arms control is more an action to monopolize the arms market in the region rather than a plan for establishing stability and peace in the Middle East.

The U.S. proposal says: "The agreement is among the world's five important arms-producing countries and concerns the non-sale of arms that can threaten stability in the Middle East region. Moreover, these countries should inform each other of arms sales in the Middle East."

The U.S. plan actually will be a prologue to a new round of arms sales to Middle Eastern countries, and this time the profit from this beneficial trade under U.S. supervision will be divided among the main arms-producing countries.

By presenting this plan, the United States will place the Middle Eastern countries' defense power under its control, and in the view of the region's rich oil resources, it will guarantee the benefits of the U.S. arms-producing companies.

By this action, the United States also will be able to feel the pulse of the region's arms market and thus control its competitors. Parallel with controlling arms prices, it will prevent the rise and fall in benefits to U.S. arms producers and to multinational companies, to the advantage of the U.S. economy.

The other point of this plan—or actually the United States' second objective in presenting the plan for Middle East arms control—is to protect the Zionist regime from every possible threat and to strengthen the bases of the Middle East peace conference to Israel's benefit, because one day after the announcement of the U.S. presidency's plan to stop arms sales to the Middle

East, the Pentagon reported the signing of new agreements on the sale of new aircraft and radar to Israel. Despite this, the first reactions from regional countries to the U.S. plot and the Middle East arms control plan were cautious.

Damascus, meanwhile, announced that it disagreed with George Bush's plan on Middle East arms control and stated that this will lead to Israel's military superiority.

If the agreement between the West's arms-producing countries is justifiable in view of the profits they have to gain, the support shown for this plan by some of the Middle East countries is doubtful. This is because even though the United States may possibly try to bribe them with arms today, in the long run it nevertheless will lead to the stabilization of the Zionist regime and the emptying of regional oil wells for the purchase of arms through U.S. channels.

Paper Calls on Iraq To Open Borders

NC2106045991 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 15 Jun 91 p 2

[Editorial: "Stop Murder by Default"]

[Text] The Iraqi regime dismisses as deliberate falsification all reports on the dreadful conditions in the southern part of the country, while the United States claims that there are no evidences of increasing military activities in Southern Iraq. All this coincides with the great and deep concerns of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Iraqi resistance groups who have expressed over the safety of thousands of Shia Iraqis who have been trapped in the southern marshlands of Iraq. Iran has at the same time requested that the plight of the refugees in the southern regions of Iraq be brought up at the UN Security Council.

In spite of the conflicting reports that have been received on Iraq's deployment of military forces in the south, reliable political observers believe that Iraq's tactic of starting negotiations with the Kurds in the north, has now made it possible for the Baghdad regime to concentrate its forces in the south, laying siege to the frightened Shia Muslims and driving them to seek a precarious refuge in marshlands areas. Iraq has blockaded all roads leading to the Iranian, Kuwaiti and Saudi Arabian borders.

Following the recent revelations and the increasing international reactions to Iraqi military activities, the Baghdad regime is in no hurry to engage in any direct military action against the refugees, especially in view of the fact that the inhospitable conditions in the marshlands in themselves pose the greatest threat to the survival of the beleaguered Shia refugees. The unbearably hot summer climate together with shortages of food and medical supplies have already condemned the refugees to epidemic diseases and certain death.

Thus the international organizations face the immense responsibility of forestalling the Baghdad regime's mean strategem of committing indirect massacre of the people.

Naturally the United Nations bears the greatest responsibility in this connection, and should press Iraq into accepting UN representatives to inspect the living conditions in the southern regions of that country. Furthermore, the UN could use the information available with the resistance groups on the circumstances of life of the multitudes of the refugees.

The least the harassed refugees might reasonably expect from the United Nations and the Security Council is to press the Iraqi regime to open up its borders with Iran and Saudi Arabia, so that the desperate people, facing sickness and starvation, could find safe havens in those countries.

Iran Increases Trade With UAE

NC2506072391 Paris AFP in English 0704 GMT 25 Jun 91

[Text] Dubayy, 25 June (AFP)—The boats of Iranian traders are again plying the Gulf waters to and from Dubayy, the region's most active commercial center, after a six-month break due to the war over Kuwait.

"The sea is bustling again with dhows shuttling between Dubayy and Iran," a Dubayy-based dealer said.

Most of the Iranian traders use dhows, tradtitional Arab wooden boats, to haul goods to and from the emirate.

Last May saw record dhow traffic between Dubayy's Al-Hamriyah port and Iranian ports, notably Bandar 'Abbas in the south of the country.

Of the 2,692 dhows and ships that used Al-Hamriyah last month, 2,204 vessels were destined to or from Iran, according to Dubayy government statistics.

The ships ferried around 18,000 people, most of them Iranian businessmen and crew, the report said.

"Apart from the large deals the traders reached, there was a marked increase in business in Dubayy markets due to a shopping spree by those people," it found.

Because of its proximity and port facilities, Iran depends on Dubayy for imports, especially industrial products and consumer goods.

"In Dubayy, it's easy to find a trader who is ready to provide you with the necessary financing at a very low interest rate," an Iranian trader said. "What also encourages us here is the wide variety of goods and freedom of currency transfer."

Such factors have made Dubayy Iran's largest Gulf trading partner, receiving about a quarter of the emirate's re-exported products in 1990, according to the Dubayy statistics.

With the easing of Iranian government restrictions on imports, such re-exports have steadily increased.

They stood at 1.91 billion dirhams (520 million dollars) in 1990, up 21 percent from the 1989 level of 1.57 billion dirhams (427 million dollars).

The 1990 figure accounted for nearly 25 percent of the emirate's total re-exports of 7.6 billion dirhams (two billion dollars).

Most of the re-exports to Iran were industrial products, vehicles, machinery, foodstuffs, and household appliances. Iran's exports to Dubayy amounted to 125 million dollars in 1989 and included mainly fruits and vegetables, nuts, and carpets.

Despite economic liberalization in Iran, which has allowed Iranian traders to import directly from the country of origin, dealers still prefer Dubayy because it is cheaper.

"Getting the goods from Japan or Malaysia is costlier because of high shipping fees," one trader said. "The product itself is also not much more expensive than in the producing country because there are no taxes on imports in Dubayy."

The Iranian traders predicted an upturn in business with Dubayy due to what they said were plans by Tehran to boost non-oil exports and lift more barriers on imports.

"The latest move by our government was allowing us to import U.S goods like refrigerators and other items," one Iranian trader said.

Apart from increasing business, the long-standing Iran-Dubayy commercial relationship seems also to have boosted confidence among traders.

"Some Iranian businessmen no longer need to come here," a Dubayy-based dealer said. "They just pick up the phone and strike the deal."

Clandestine Reports Clash in Baneh

NC2506103191 (Clandestine) Voice of Iranian Kordestan in Persian 1730 GMT 24 Jun 91

[Text] Bukan—According to a report by the Voice of Iranian Kordestan correspondent from the party committee in Bukan district, the Peshmergas of the Martyr Pishva and the Bayan unit of the DPK were in the Baneh district on some party assignments on 20 June and were resting in the valley of Zaker Heights in Howsavaneh district in Baneh. At 1630, they were alerted by the vigilant observation posts and informed that the enemy had been observed making some suspicious movements.

The Peshmergas quickly organized their units and, with morale high, they prepared themselves to battle the enemy. The valiant democrats arrayed themselves in two groups, some stationed themselves behind the villages of (Alot) and Chandesin and others, who were the Peshmergas of the Bayan units, advanced toward the Zaker Heights where some mercenaries and ruffians of the mullahs' regime had assumed positions.

The courageous Peshmergas advanced toward the enemy, and as soon as they got close enough, they opened fire on the enemy positions and attacked them with relentless fire. The mercenaries, who did not have the strength to face the determination of the Peshmergas, preferred to flee rather than stay and fight, leaving their trenches.

The brave ones of Kordestan took up positions in their trenches. The enemy who had become dazed and helpless under the Peshmergas blows, called for assistance. After a while, some enemy personnel carriers arrived from the city of Baneh and took up positions behind the village of (Vellasan). They fired fiercely on the positions and trenches of the Peshmergas for three and a half hours, using cannon, mortars, and Katyusha missile launchers.

However, the valiant democrats ignored the heavy firing by the enemy and stayed in their trenches, waiting for a chance to attack the anti-popular forces. Following their hail of fire, the mercenaries of the mullahs' regime thought that the Peshmergas had been routed, and advanced toward their positions. As soon as they reached their positions, the brave democrats who had taken refuge under the massive boulders of the Zaker hills emerged with a swift and intensive volley of machinegun fire and attacked them with grenades.

After a cowardly resistance for half an hour, the abject enemy fled from the fierce blows by the Peshmergas and retreated from the Zaker hills.

During the battle, an unknown number of the mullahs' mercenaries were killed and wounded. The bodies of three anti-popular Guards remained on the scene. They were identified by the DPK Peshmergas as:

- Qasem Mohammadpur
- Morteza Kasebi from Qazvin
- Mozaffar Mohammadi

The booty seized by the DPK Peshmergas in this clash included three collapsible Kalashnikovs, 15 (cartridges), and two hand grenades. Martyr Pishva Peshmergas who had taken up positions behind the villages of (Alot) and Chandesin did not join the battle as the enemy did not enter this sector. The brave DPK peshmergas of the Bayan and Pishva units returned safe and triumphant after these victorious operations and continued their patrolling in the area. Blessings on the large-scale and laudable resistance by you, O revolutionary Peshmergas of the DPK of Iran! From the trench of the Voice of Iranian Kordestan, we greet you O brave ones and we kiss your able hands and your enemy-burning guns! May you always be steadfast and victorious, O heroic ones in the trenches of invincible Kordestan!

Sri Lanka

Premadasa Delivers 'Fighting Speech'

Government To Solve Own Problems

BK2406115991 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0842 GMT 24 Jun 91

["Oana/Pool item" from A.S. Fernando in Kamburupitiya]

[Text] Colombo, 24 June (LANKAPUVATH)—President Ranasinghe Premadasa said in Kamburupitiya Sunday, that none would succeed in prodding this government into solving problems the way they wanted.

Addressing a 'janahamuwa' [public meeting] held to mark the opening of Gam Udawa [Village Reawakening] '91 Anniversary Exhibition, the president said: "none would succeed in frightening us into solving problems. We are not afraid to solve problems either".

In a fighting speech, the president said that those who resorted to the use of firepower to gain their political objectives, had now entered the stage of using car bombs to strike terror into government and the people.

"We are a democratic government and we have to solve problems the democratic way. We are prepared to come to terms with realities relating to problems. If we could resolve issues with regard to the official language, citizenship, and recruitment to government service by democratic means, why can't we sort out the only unresolved issue—the sharing of power— by non-violent means without prejudice to sovereignty and independence of our country?", he asked.

The president said that his government would never seek foreign 'wisdom' to solve the national issues, adding that nor would it seek foreign military assistance to suppress any recalcitrant group in the country.

The president asserted that the government was prepared to enter the process of consultation, compromise, and consensus to find solutions to all national issues in keeping with the mandate it received from the people.

He added that he wished to warn that those who had taken up arms would perish by arms sooner or later.

More on Premadasa's Speech

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[Text] It is the duty of all to work toward an acceptable solution to the problem of the north and east, which is a common national issue by rising above narrow differences. This approach was advocated by President Ranasinghe Premadasa at a public meeting which followed the opening of the Gam Udawa [Village Reawakening] '91 celebrations at Kamburupitiya yesterday. He said that all parties and groups should come together and discuss all aspects of the problem in their search for a solution. An opportunity had been provided to solve the language issue and the problems of citizenship and employment through discussion.

The devolution of power is a problem yet to be settled. The president stressed that the government is committed and always ready to solve these problems peacefully, safeguarding the unity, sovereignty and integrity of the nation.

The president recalled that since assuming office he has been guided by the pledge made by him to solve problems through consultation, compromise, and consensus. The all-party conference was convened to achieve a solution based on this approach. The president pointed out that it is not proper to transform the north-east problem into a narrow political issue. He observed that innocent people of all communities are the victims of the unwanted war.

The president reiterated that he was not ready to obtain foreign counselling to solve our problems or to invite foreign troops to control one of our local groups. Solutions to our problem should be found by us alone. At the same time, President Ranasinghe Premadasa made it clear, that nobody would be able to unleash terror against the democratic government in a bid to solve problems. In like manner there is no fear on the part of the government to find solutions to problems. He said that he could not be pressurized towards solving problems by tactics of fear and terrorism. He pointed out that the problem has been so aggravated that the Tamil and Muslim people are unable to find a unified position through discussion.

Some of our national political parties are averse to participating in the all-party conference. They call upon the government to put foward solutions. The motive behind this was to create confusion taking issue at the proposed solution. Several militant groups appreciating the government's honest action toward solving the language, citizenship, and employment problem through discussion have now entered the democratic process. The LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] is the only group that continues to pursue the militant path. The president made it clear that he did not repose faith in a military solution or on arms. In this context, he said that since assuming office he had made efforts to find solutions to problems by looking into the causes. The JVP [Janata Vimukthi Peramuna] terrorism claimed 6,000 lives. Damage to public property amounted to 5,000 million rupees. The president observed that the fate of JVPers proved the saying that those who take up the sword, perish by the sword.